

Israeli soldier stabbed in Nablus

TEL AVIV (AP) — A man stabbed an Israeli soldier while he was patrolling the occupied West Bank town of Nablus on Saturday, but other soldiers chased the assailant and arrested him, military sources said. The sources said the soldier, who was not identified, was slightly wounded as he patrolled on foot and his attacker was being interrogated. The assault took place in clock square in the centre of Nablus, the largest town in the West Bank. It was the fourth attack and the third stabbing attack on Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank this year in an escalated wave of anti-occupation violence. In Ramallah a soldier was shot to death in February. In Hebron two soldiers were stabbed, one fatally, last August.

Jordan Times

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Farmers association thanks government

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai on Saturday received a cable from the chairman of the Jordan Valley Farmers Association expressing gratitude for the government's decision with regard to prices of agricultural crops. In the cable the chairman also voiced the association's appreciation for the government's directives to the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan to purchase crops surplus, a move which, he said, would encourage farmers to intensify their efforts for better production.

Gostyev named new Soviet finance minister

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Gostyev, a former aide of Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, has been appointed Soviet finance minister, the official news agency TASS said Saturday. Mr. Gostyev replaces Vasily Garkuzov, who died last month after 25 years in the post. Mr. Gostyev, 58, worked for more than 2 1/2 years as deputy to Mr. Ryzhkov in the economic department of the ruling Communist Party Central Committee, before the latter was named prime minister in September.

Iran rejects U.N. criticism

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said on Saturday a U.N. resolution expressing deep concern about human rights in Iraq (see page 8) would not affect Tehran's internal security policies. "We declare that this vote and tens of others like it will have no effect on the will of our nation... we will suppress anyone who wants to fight the Islamic revolution with weapons and foreign backing," Mr. Mousavi said.

France frees Bhutto's wife

NICE (AP) — Rehana Bhutto, the 21-year-old widow of Pakistani opposition leader Shahnawaz Bhutto, was released from jail on Friday under judicial control after being held 50 days on charges of "failing to come to the aid of a person in danger." Shahnawaz Bhutto, 27, died of poisoning in his Cannes apartment on July 18, Richard Banon, the widow's attorney, said the fact that his client had been released from jail "confirmed the theory of suicide" in the case.

U.S. says no news of Buckley's 'death'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House and the State Department said on Friday they had no information to support a published report that U.S. hostage William Buckley, kidnapped in Beirut, had died in Iraq as a result of torture and other abuse. Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said: "We are continuing to work on the assumption that all six American hostages are alive." The State Department spokesman repeated the same words.

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China reaffirms support for Mideast conference and Jordan-PLO accord

ing, Crown Prince, Rifai and ministers hold talks with visiting Chinese foreign minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — China on Saturday reaffirmed its support for Jordan's call for an international conference on the Middle East to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and backing for the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The reaffirmation of Chinese support came in statements made by Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian during his meetings here on Saturday, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

His Majesty King Hussein conferred at the Royal Court Saturday with Mr. Wu, who conveyed to the King greetings from the Chinese leadership and people. Petra said. The Chinese people and government send their wishes for Jordan's continued progress and prosperity under the leadership of King Hussein, the minister said at the audience, Petra reported.

Mr. Wu was later received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The Crown Prince and Mr. Wu reviewed bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East and ways of bolstering Jordanian-Chinese cooperation, Petra said.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and an official Chinese delegation accompanying Mr. Wu were present at the meeting. Earlier, the Chinese minister was received by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, who discussed with him Jordanian-Chinese cooperation and discussed the Middle East as well as other topics of mutual interest. At the meeting Mr. Wu voiced his country's support for an international conference to find a just and durable peace in the Middle East, Petra said.

The Chinese minister held a separate meeting with Mr. Masri to review developments in bilateral relations over the past few years. Mr. Masri briefed the guest on Middle East developments as well as Jordan's efforts to find a peaceful, durable and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine problem through an international conference sponsored by the United Nations and attended by all concerned parties as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council, Petra said.

It said that the Chinese minister voiced his country's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle in confrontation with the aggressive and expansionist Israeli policies.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday confers with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian in a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and aides (Petra photo)

Masri: Jordan, Syria continuing talks to reach accord on all issues

By Rabab Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Saturday that the Jordanian and Syrian positions during Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasbi's talks in Amman last week were not completely identical but that both sides were continuing talks to reach agreement on all issues of concern to them.

"Besides those issues that were discussed and mentioned in the joint communiqué, there were other political matters that were reviewed, especially the Palestinian problem, on which we cannot say our views were identical," Mr. Masri said. "But both sides are surely working towards reaching their sister agreement on them," he added.

In an exclusive interview with the Jordan Times and Al Rai, Mr. Masri said Jordan's evaluation of the talks with Dr. Kasbi is very

positive since there is a necessity for continuing the dialogue which is aimed at reaching agreement on all issues, including differences, between the two countries. "There is a decision by the highest levels in both countries to continue this dialogue for the purpose of serving the Arab Nation," Mr. Masri said.

The joint communiqué, issued at the end of Dr. Kasbi's visit to Jordan, reiterated the two countries' rejection of all partial and unilateral settlements with Israel and direct talks with the Jewish state. Jordan and Syria also pledged to intensify efforts to achieve a just durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The joint statement expressed Jordan's and Syria's conviction that just and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved other than through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, attended by all parties concerned (and) the United States, the Soviet Union and the (three other) permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Commenting on the call for an international conference, Mr. Masri said: "There is agreement by both sides on the need for holding the conference, and also who should participate in it. Jordan and Syria will continue discussions and consultations to agree on the other issues concerning this conference."

Mr. Masri did not say what these "other issues" were, but said it is not practical to think that total solutions can be found for complicated problems in short periods of time.

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(Continued on page 3)

Iraq hits Iranian power and oil stations

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes on Saturday raided a hydro-electric station and an oil-pumping center in Iran, despite indications from Tehran that it may limit hostilities in the five-year-old Gulf war.

An Iraqi military spokesman told Baghdad Radio that the jet fighters launched a destructive raid on the power-generating network at Reza Dam, while another group of warplanes bombed the Rain Hormuz oil pumping station.

The raids were carried out simultaneously and the targets were left in flames, according to the spokesman.

He did not give the location of the dam, but it appeared to be on a lake just north of Dezful, in southwest Iran.

The Iranian newspaper Kayhan reported on Saturday that Iran has more troops mustered on the central and southern sectors of the Gulf war front than at any time in its conflict with Iraq.

On Friday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iran was ready to "hold off" a major ground offensive against Iraq if Iraq desisted from "committing further crimes against us."

Kayhan quoted a senior commander as saying that "as everyone sees, marchers to Karbala (a holy city in Iraq south of Baghdad) are setting off for the fronts every day."

Islamic Revolutionary Guards corps first deputy commander Ali Shamkhani also told the newspaper that "from west to south, we now have the highest level of forces ever during the war."

Diplomats say it is almost impossible to gauge the number of Iranian fighters at the front. Estimates range from 500,000 to two million.

Beirut militias try to revive peace pact amid new violence

BEIRUT (R) — Rival militia officials left for Damascus on Saturday in a bid to revive a plan to end Lebanon's civil war despite scattered artillery duels that killed nine people.

Beirut was calmer after militia gunners swapped mortar and cannon fire over the "green line" dividing the city.

Seven people were killed and more than 25 wounded on Friday when shells struck residential areas on both sides of the line in the worst fighting for weeks, security sources reported.

Shells also hit the outskirts of the port of Sidon about 40 kilometres south of Beirut as Lebanese fighters clashed at dawn with the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army (SLA)" militia.

The sources said one person died and seven people were wounded in Saturday's bombardment, while a militia man was killed on Friday at Kfar Falous, about 10 kilometres east of Sidon.

In Beirut, militia sources said representatives of the Shiite Ahal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) were expected to start separate talks with Syrian leaders in a bid to revive a plan to end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

The representatives were likely to meet Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddan in Damascus, the sources said.

Beirut Radio said a delegation from the mostly Christian rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia also visited the Syrian capital for the second time in two days.

Political observers said fresh talks would mark the first major attempt to revive a Syrian-backed peace accord since negotiations stalled a month ago.

Agreement on a draft pact was frozen by a dispute among Christians over the plan's far-reaching political reforms, designed to give the Muslim majority more say in government.

Some Christian leaders wanted changes to the plan and Syria urged Muslim leaders to consider their demands.

The peace process was also hit by a five-day battle between Ahal and PSP militiamen in west Beirut. More than 60 people died in bitter street battles which began on Nov. 20.

Anal leader Nahib Berri accused Israel of trying to sabotage the Lebanese peace process.

"There is a real race between the advocates of solution and unity, and advocates of partition and sedition," Mr. Berri said.

Mr. Berri told reporters: "Israel has not abandoned partition plans in Lebanon and attempts to topple the tripartite (militia) agreement as a lawful formula of restoring Lebanon's unity," Mr. Berri said.

Mr. Berri also launched an indirect attack on the U.S. Congress for a decision to stop its \$18 million contribution to a U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon.

He also charged President Amin Gemayel with playing a key role in attempts to partition the country and accused him of planning to set up a new civil airport and television station in Christian-dominated areas.

Lebanon seeks closer ties with Soviets, page 2

Egypt charges 4 Libyans with plot to murder exiles

CAIRO (R) — Four Libyans were officially indicted on Saturday on charges of plotting to kill Libyan exiles in Egypt, with the public prosecutor demanding the death penalty.

The men, who will appear before a high security court in Alexandria, were arrested last month after what the prosecution said was a failed bid to assassinate Libyan exiles in Egypt, including former Prime Minister Abdul Halim Al Bakouch.

Public prosecutor Abdul Jawjouli Al Barhawi has also issued warrants for the arrests of three alleged accomplices to be tried in absentia. The prosecution is seeking life sentences.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency identified the four facing possible death sentences as Nur Abdullah Alkhouja, Yousef Nagmeddine Al Iraqi, Farhat Johannah Al Sedjiaq Al Nayli and Mohrez Mohammad Sherouta.

The prosecutor's statement said charges included conspiring with a foreign country to cause political harm to Egypt, conspiring to harm Egypt's national security, conspiring with a fifth party — a Libyan intelligence officer — to kill Libyan exiles opposed to the Tripoli government, and illegal possession of weapons.

They were also accused of accepting payment from a foreign country to harm Egyptian interests and accepting the equivalent of \$16,000 from a Libyan intelligence officer in return for hurting Egyptian interests.

The four were seized after police, using hidden cameras to monitor their movements in Alexandria, ambushed them near a ranch where about 50 Libyan exiles were lunching and arrested three of them. A fourth surrendered after a gunbattle.

SDI — a U.S. ethical evaluation, page 4

Flight recorders offer little clue to find cause of Gander crash

GANDER, Newfoundland (Agencies) — Flight recorders offered little help and investigators say they are baffled over what caused the crash of a DC-8 plane carrying U.S. army paratroopers back from the Middle East.

Canadian investigators said Saturday they have recovered all the bodies from the crash site of the charter flight carrying 248 American soldiers, and are preparing to send the remains home to the United States.

Earlier, the chief investigator said he had found "black boxes" found in the crash wreckage have yielded no clues to why the jet crashed and exploded, killing all 248 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division and eight crew aboard.

The chartered Arrow Air jetliner crashed moments after a pre-lawn takeoff Thursday from Gander international airport, where it had refuelled for the final portion of a trip from Cairo, to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The soldiers were returning home after a six-month tour as peacekeepers in Egypt's Sinai peninsula.

"At this point, there is nothing that could assist the investigation team in determining the cause of the crash," said Tom Hinton, director of investigations for the Canadian Aviation Safety Board.

Mr. Hinton said a preliminary analysis revealed voices on the tape but that further study was required. He would not reveal whether the voices were those of the crew or whether any problems were indicated during the takeoff.

The flight data recorder was also damaged by fire after the crash, and more time will be needed before any information can be obtained, Mr. Hinton said.

David Owen, a top aide in the investigation, told reporters that investigators have found that the fuel used in the DC-8 met specifications. He said officials are

examining information filed by the pilot on the plane's weight and balance, but so far have been unable to pin down the likely cause of the crash.

About 100 Royal Canadian Mounted Police and 140 Canadian soldiers worked in the snow-covered woods to retrieve the bodies, under the supervision of investigators from the safety board, searching for remains.

Canadian officials have said the plane's engines had not yet been examined to see if one failed and "nothing has been ruled out" as a cause of the disaster, including sabotage.

The U.S. Defence Department has dismissed a claim by an anonymous caller in Beirut to a Western news agency that the Islamic Jihad group was responsible for the crash.

U.S. soldier tells mother he missed the crash, page 8

U.N. assembly condemns U.S. and British vetoes

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly voted 81-30 on Friday to condemn vetoes by the United States and Britain that blocked the Security Council from imposing mandatory sanctions against South Africa last month.

Without specifically naming them, the assembly majority also appealed to the two Western powers "to desist from further misuse of the veto." There were 34 abstentions.

The unusual assembly action came on a separate vote as the 159-member body overwhelmingly adopted six resolutions dealing with the "Question of Namibia (South-West Africa)," and condemning South Africa for delaying its independence.

The majority overrode a U.S. motion to delete a portion of one resolution that "strongly condemns the use of the veto by the two Western permanent members of the Security Council" on Nov. 15 that prevented the council from taking effective measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the

United Nations against South Africa.

The portion of the resolution also appealed to the two Western permanent members "to desist from further misuse of the veto." Chapter VII empowers the council to take punitive action against countries deemed to be in breach of the peace.

When the Security Council dealt with the Namibia issue last month, 12 of 15 members voted to adopt a package of 12 "mandatory selective sanctions," including an oil embargo and other trade restrictions. France abstained while the United States and Britain killed the punitive resolution by casting vetoes.

Despite one setback Friday, the United States succeeded in other motions to delete six specific references to itself in the resolutions, including a paragraph that would have condemned "the United States policy of 'constructive engagement' which has encouraged racist South Africa to intensify its intransigence."

Pretoria court sentences six blacks to death

PRETORIA (Agencies) — Six South African blacks, one a woman, have been sentenced to hang for the murder of a township councillor 15 months ago.

The death sentence was imposed in the Pretoria supreme court after they had been convicted of stoning and burning Kuzimayo Dlamini of Lekoa township near Johannesburg in September last year.

He was killed on the day anti-apartheid riots erupted in earnest over plans to increase local taxes and rents.

Many black officials, including policemen, have since died from a form of execution known popularly in the townships as the "necklace treatment" — a burning tyre is often placed around the victim's neck.

Township residents, angered by their treatment under South Africa's apartheid racial segregation laws, have taken revenge on blacks they considered guilty of collaborating with Pretoria's authorities.

جوردان تايمز

Over 1,000 Falashas cross into Sudan

Moscow planned to despatch an additional force to protect its embassy in the mainly Muslim western sector of the city. An embassy spokesman declined to comment.

guards already control security inside the embassy compound. It was not clear if the new unit would have wider duties.

Druze militia fighters equipped with Soviet-made tanks have manned earthwork barricades ringing the embassy since the September 1990 seizure of power by Syrian-backed forces.

Consular Secretary Arkady Katkov was killed by his captors. The other officials were freed a month after their seizure.

Moscow responded by evacuating about half its 150-strong community in Beirut at the time, but there was no apparent impact on Soviet relations with Lebanon.

Tehran to set up college for intelligence operatives

to set up college for intelligence

to set up college for intelligence

to set up college for intelligence operatives

to set up college for intelligence operatives

Over 1,000 Falashas | Iran sets three conditions for improving relations with France

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Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani recently called in Spanish Ambassador Raimundo Bnsols to express the government's deep concern over the new law. But Moroccan opposition parties, trying to spur the authorities into further action, fear that Madrid's real aim is to make the two cities more Spanish.

Privately, they say, Moroccan

Iran sets three conditions for improving relations with France

stems from the days of the Shah who lent France one billion dollars for the establishment of Iran's ambitious nuclear development programme. The programme was

abandoned following the overthrow of the monarchy and Iran has been trying to get its money back since then, with interest added.

Reports from Paris said that the French delegation plans to seek information while in Iran about four French hostages held in Lebanon and one held in Iran.

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Nsour told Petra that both sides agreed on setting up joint industrial projects in China and that China will help Jordan carry out construction work on roads and bridges and other public installations and will help market

A Jordanian team will visit China in the coming week to examine China's experience in exploiting oil shale. Dr. Nsour told Petra.

Mr. Wu arrived in Amman from Baghdad on Friday on the second leg of a five-nation Arab tour. His visit to Jordan is expected to last four days.

Mr. Wu was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Mr. Masri

CESS ALIA

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TEL
R AT 10:30 A.M.

Brief

BAKE SALE CORPORATIONS

OLS

TODAY

TELEPHONE NOS.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issa Abu Hayder 637123
Dr. Anwar Aqrabawi 642696
Firas pharmacy 661912
Nadroukh pharmacy 623672
Maher pharmacy 669337
Khaled pharmacy 666601

Al Qaq pharmacy	772310
Al Qaq pharmacy	896491
Al Safa pharmacy	774054

TAXIS:

Venecia taxi	644584
Al Ahram taxi	663911
Mehyar taxi	644574
Assem taxi	844503

Allam taxi 666022
 Al Nahar taxi 811619
IRBID:
 Dr. Ahmad Beshtawi 273925
 Nabulsi pharmacy (---)
ZARQA:
 Dr. Marhab ElHamami 001317

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
Radio Jordan 774111/19

Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

T PRICES

Garlic (with leaves)	320 / 280
Garlic (without leaves)	480 / 400
Onion (dry)	180 / 140
Potatoes	200 / 160
Sage (green)	350 / 300

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Airman governorate	891328
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qweisneh	770733
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence reserve	661111
Fire headquarters	620290-3
Police reserve	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	8963901
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 642981
Municipal water complaints	771125/8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)5333060	

HOSPITALS

Haseem Medical Centre	813813/52
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn.	64428/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	64428/12
..	64244/12
..	642362
Malles, J. Amman	636140
Paletine, Shmeisil	664171/4
Shmeisil Hospital	669131
University Hospital	84584/5/65
Al-Munster Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdah	666123/7
Al-Ahli, Abdah	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhsajir	777011/2
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafiah	775111/26
Army, Marika	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50

AMMAN:

Dr. Issa Abu Hayder	637123
Dr. Awiaz Agabawi	642696
Firas pharmacy	661912
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Maher pharmacy	669337
Khaled pharmacy	666601
Na'im pharmacy	772310
Al Qasr pharmacy	896491
Al Safa pharmacy	774054

TAXIS:

Venecia taxi	644584
Al Ahram taxi	663911
Mehyar taxi	644574
Assent taxi	844503
Allam taxi	666022
Al Nihar taxi	811619

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Beshawi	273925
Natouli pharmacy	(→)

ZARQA:

Dr. Meshah Hijawi	981317
Hikma pharmacy	(→)
Frejil pharmacy	(→)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Pace complaints	661176
Telephone information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	17
Overseas calls	10
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

(Fixed prices for imported produce)

Upper/lower price in fcs per kg.

Apple	280 / 220
Banana	140 / 100
Cherimoy	700 / 450
Coconut (each)	500 / 450

Garlic (with leaves)	320 / 280
Garlic (without leaves)	480 / 400
Onion (dry)	180 / 140
Potatoes	200 / 160
Sage (green)	350 / 300

Ministry plans to establish 9 new municipal councils

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has almost finalised plans and procedural arrangements for creating nine new municipal councils in the country, Minister of Municipal Affairs Marwan Hmoud announced here Saturday.

The minister said that the move is in line with the ministry's policy of expanding the base of local government and providing better public services to all regions. Several committees, set up to tour the villages whose councils will be enlarged to become municipal councils, will shortly visit villages

in question and discuss matters related to public services, municipalities' laws and other topics, the minister continued.

Mr. Hmoud said the new councils will be set up at Kathruba and Jedida in Karak Governorate, Huseinich in Ma'an Governorate, Tibneh, Sama Al Rusan and Buweida in Irbid Governorate, Za'atari in Mafrq Governorate, Abu Nuseir in Balqa Governorate and Grandal in Tafleh Governorate. At present there are 143 municipal councils in Jordan, the minister said, while there are 828 village councils.

Nsour, World Bank official discuss 5-year plan projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Bank Saturday expressed interest in financing a number of projects included in the forthcoming Jordanian national five-year development plan. This was voiced by a leading World Bank official, Mr. Fawzi Sultan, during a meeting here with Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour.

Mr. Sultan, who is the World Bank's executive director, reviewed with Dr. Nsour current cooperation between Jordan and

the World Bank and he praised Jordan's efficiency in handling loans and the Kingdom's proper and wise investment in development projects. Mr. Sultan and Dr. Nsour also reviewed projects being carried out in Jordan with World Bank assistance.

Dr. Nsour presented a general outline of the coming five-year plan in Jordan to Mr. Sultan and explained which projects will be given priority.

New society aims to promote rural activities, agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — A society which aims to encourage people to move from urban to rural regions of the country has been established in Jordan. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Saturday gave his consent to the establishment of this society which will be based in Zarqa.

The society will aim at encouraging people to cultivate their lands and to live on them instead of migrating to the city and it also hopes to promote cultural and health services in rural regions of

Jordan.

Programmes for teaching adults and illiterate people and encouraging students to study subjects related to agriculture will be among the main concerns of the society, according to a society spokesman. He said that the society will hold courses on animal husbandry, maintaining and preserving national heritage and will also run education programmes for women in rural regions, especially courses on domestic science and related subjects.

Club organises fashion show to raise funds for cancer centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The House and Garden Club will hold a fashion show to display Jordan's costumes through history and the proceeds will benefit the projected Amal centre for the treatment of cancer patients, according to the club's spokesperson Jacqueline Fakhour. She said that the show will be presented by designer Basem Al Sheikh Jawad, and Jordanian girls will display more than 30 costumes worn by

Jordanian women throughout the ages.

The club has previously organised other functions and sent the proceeds to the Friends of the Liver Patients Society, Mrs. Fakhour added. She said that the fashion show, to be held on Monday, will be attended by invited guests including members of the diplomatic corps. In addition to the fashion show, a choir will sing Christmas carols, she added.



CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES WU: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday holds a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (Petra photo) who is currently on a four-day visit to Jordan, in a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (Petra photo)

W.German defence official ends visit, praises Jordan's policies, armed forces

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — West Germany's Deputy Defence Minister Lothar Ruhl left Amman Saturday at the end of a week-long visit to Jordan. During his visit he met with senior officials, inspected a number of military positions and toured archaeological sites in the country.

Dr. Ruhl was seen off at the airport by Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh, West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Airforce and other officials.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Dr. Ruhl said that Jordan's security depends on its defence preparedness, the balance of forces in the region and the Kingdom's diplomatic ability to maintain stability and peace.

"The Kingdom's security cannot be reached by heavy defence expenditure and the massing of military equipment," said Dr. Ruhl.

"Security has to rest both on defence preparedness, the balance of forces in the area and the ability to make peace stable," Dr. Ruhl continued.

This, according to Dr. Ruhl, indicates that "there is no perfect solution to the security problem in Jordan and that all defence capabilities are limited."

The same is true for West Germany and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries as well as the Warsaw Pact states in Europe, he said.

Dr. Ruhl was received by His Majesty King Hussein last Sunday

and discussed with him issues of mutual interest. The West German official had lengthy talks with Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Zaid Rifai on the situation in the Middle East and Jordan's security requirements. Dr. Ruhl described the talks as "informative."

The West German official also met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and other senior military officers.

During his one-week stay in Jordan, Dr. Ruhl visited the commands of three divisions and several brigade commands in the northern and western regions. He also toured the Hussein Technical Centre for armoured vehicles which he described as "very modern and extremely impressive by all technical standards."

His tour also included visiting one air base which he said was "well-managed by international technical and logistical standards."

"The performance is a fact of confidence in Jordan's Armed Forces' capability to take care of defence," said Dr. Ruhl, who is also a political and military analyst.

Assessing Jordan's Armed Forces, he said the Kingdom "has a good military force to take care of the protection of its frontiers in case of need, with high professional military standards and equipment."

He explained that "in a war situation, we don't know how things might come out." He explained that the outcome of a war in the

region "does not necessarily depend on the massing of weaponry but on the availability of allies and their protection."

However, he said, "countries in this region have realised that further military confrontation will not serve anybody's purpose."

He stressed that military is only one part of security. "The massing of arms and the inclination to overarm does not lead to more security. You cannot cover risks that are uncovered."

Dr. Ruhl maintained that "problems of defence cannot be isolated from other political options."

He said that in the Middle East the tendency to overarm can fall under the law of diminishing returns.

Dr. Ruhl said that given the complexity of conditions for balance in this region, opposing interests and the international environment, "what King Hussein calls the process of peace is the only way."

Dr. Ruhl, whose latest visit was the fourth to Jordan, said that his country supports Jordan's peace efforts. "We consider Jordan to be an important factor in peace and stability," he said.

Regarding possible provisions of West German arms to Jordan, Dr. Ruhl said that the issue "was not raised by the Jordanian side."

West Germany has a restrictive policy on arms exports to regions of tension.

Dr. Ruhl is a former journalist and member of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

Arab sociologists to review universities' contribution to social development

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Renowned sociologists from six Arab countries will gather here on Sunday to participate in a four-day conference on "Social Development in the Arab World" which will open at the Arab Thought Forum on Monday.

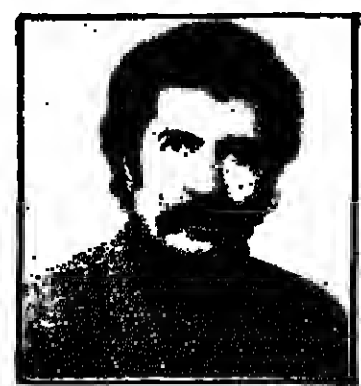
The conference, which is organised by the University of Jordan in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the West German Konrad Adenauer Association, will try to define a functional definition for social development in the Arab World. It will also try to promote the exchange of respective countries' experiences in the field of social development and assess the role of universities in promoting social development through local community centres.

The 17 participants to attend the conference represent universities in Kuwait, Sudan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and Syria. Participants are expected to evaluate the University of Jordan's experience in upgrading the social activities in deprived areas of Hay Nazzal and Sweileh. The university's Department of Sociology established two community centres in the densely populated areas of Hay Nazzal and Sweileh in 1977 and 1982 respectively.

These two centres, which have since then been run by university students majoring in sociology and by the department's staff, have generated positive effects on the social standard and living patterns of these two areas and their achievements, according to Dr. Sari Nasir, who is professor of sociology at the University of Jordan, have encouraged the department to initiate another community centre in Qawasmeh, to the south east of Amman.

Dr. Nasir, who will submit a paper on "The University of Jordan and social development: a case study," said it is of special significance to indicate that the Arab universities could help in upgrading the social status of poor and deprived areas.

The paper, Dr. Nasir explained, will mention positive achievements of these two centres on each community's population and the centre's role in changing the people's social patterns and behaviour.



Sari Nasir

Referring to the impact of these centres on the population they serve he said: "The majority of women have been taught how to read and write, the girls have been encouraged to search for jobs and thereby contribute to the country's development and to their social status. Children have had

the chance to read more in the centre's library and to play recreational and constructive games instead of playing street games."

"Our prime targets in these centres have been the women and children since women influence their children and children are the country's future," he continued.

"In order to avoid any future social complications, we have taught children how to become productive and creative, which will certainly affect their future roles and perception," Dr. Nasir said.

University students, who work in these centres as part of their academic requirements in applying their study courses, have had a direct chance to identify with some of Jordan's social problems and how to tackle them. "It is high time that students and the community get directly involved in helping their community instead of sitting in ivory towers watching the problems without attempting to solve them," Dr. Nasir added.

Health Ministry takes steps to control, treat increasing number of tuberculosis cases

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Saturday said that statistics have revealed a growing increase in the number of tuberculosis cases discovered annually in Jordan and that a survey conducted by the Ministry of Health between 1973 and 1985 has disclosed that 6,474 tuberculosis cases were discovered and treated.

monthly in-kind assistance and financial aid to every patient until he recovers.

Dr. Hamzeh also hailed the cooperation between the medical cadres in the public and private sectors in discovering cases and referring patients to specialised centres. The minister pointed out that the ministry is showing an increasing interest in this disease and its treatment. The minister also added that 55,419 patients were X-rayed and 59,109 students were vaccinated against tuberculosis during 1985.

Dr. Hamzeh also called on the concerned parties in the public and private sectors to refer cases to the chest diseases centre for testing and treatment and noted that the tests and treatment offered by the ministry to patients suffering from this disease is free.

The minister concluded by affirming that tuberculosis is no longer a danger in Jordan and added that 21 specialised doctors, in addition to qualified technical cadres and specialised labs, are operating at the chest diseases centre to detect tuberculosis cases.

Dr. Hamzeh was speaking to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, during an inspection visit he paid to the chest diseases department where he heard a detailed explanation on the progress of work at the department. The minister pointed out that some foreign workers entering Jordan have tuberculosis and that the ministry has taken all the necessary measures to detect persons with this disease. He added that the ministry has asked every worker entering the country to present a certificate which indicates that he is free from tuberculosis. Despite these measures, Dr. Hamzeh added, several tuberculosis cases have been discovered among newcomers and this has prompted the

ministry to prevent any newcomer from working in the country before undergoing laboratory and radiological tests. The incoming worker will only be allowed to work in Jordan if he is proved to be free from tuberculosis, the minister continued. Any person found to have tuberculosis will undergo a treatment programme with the latest techniques and medicines and the tests will be repeated at various times until complete recovery, Dr. Hamzeh said.

The minister added that the society for combating tuberculosis, which is chaired by the prime minister, has played a major role in supporting the chest diseases department at the Ministry of Health and he said that this society offers

University opens television studio with Japanese assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — A television studio has been opened at the University of Jordan with Japanese assistance, inaugurating the studio, University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali said that the project was another step towards promoting the educational role of the university.

He paid tribute to the Japanese government for supplying equipment worth 35 million yen to help equip the studio which, he said, would benefit the educational techniques centre and enable it to offer better educational services to all faculties and participants in teacher training courses. The University of Jordan appreciates the Japanese government's assistance which he said marks another step towards bolstering Japanese-Jordanian cultural relations.

Also speaking was Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama who paid tribute to the strong cultural and economic relations between Jordan and Japan and expressed hope that these relations will be further bolstered. Director of the educational techniques centre Anwar Al Abed made a speech in which he said that the studio will help promote educational techniques.

Later, the ambassador handed Dr. Majali a list of the equipment used in the studio, and Dr. Majali presented the ambassador with a token gift. Several university deans and senior staff were present at the opening ceremony.

Masri: Jordan, Syria continuing talks

(Continued from page 1)

been neglected for a long time," Mr. Masri said. "There simply are no magic solutions to the problems we face in the Arab World."

The foreign minister said that the West has become more receptive to the idea of an international conference, and "we have seen lately that some Western leaders have started their belief in the necessity for holding it."

"Only Israel and the U.S. stand in the way of this conference," Mr. Masri said.

In reply to a question on the Oct. 14 cancellation of a planned meeting between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Masri said: "The principle of the visit is still

there, but no date has been fixed yet for the joint delegation to go to London. On the other hand, contacts are continuing for the delegation to visit The Netherlands which will chair the European Community (next month) if a visit to Britain is fixed anew."

On the Arab summit, which is scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia reportedly next March, Mr. Masri said that some obstacles still stand in the way of this summit, but that Jordan and Syria are working together to prepare the way for it under "propitious circumstances."

"Syria and Iraq are still far apart in their respective positions but Jordan is playing a leading role in clearing the Arab atmosphere and in solving differences between the two sister countries," Mr. Masri added.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian agricultural team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An Egyptian agricultural delegation, led by Dr. Mahmoud Nour, the director of intensive farming in Egypt, arrived in Amman Saturday on a six-day visit to Jordan. Dr. Nour will be meeting with Jordanian officials and will inspect a number of agricultural projects and the drip irrigation system which is being widely used in the Jordan Valley. Dr. Nour is accompanied by a delegation of 15 agricultural engineers employed on projects operated by the Egyptian agricultural extension service.

Romanian envoy, Favez review bilateral ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Romania's ambassador to Jordan Andrei Cervencovici has expressed his country's desire to increase cooperation with Jordan in all fields. The ambassador was speaking at a meeting with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Favez to whom he handed a letter of congratulations from the speaker of the Romanian parliament for his re-appointment as speaker of the Lower House of Parliament in Jordan. Mr. Favez and the ambassador reviewed bilateral relations and Mr. Favez expressed hope that parliamentary relations between the two countries would be strengthened.

Yarmouk researches solar energy

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University is conducting intensive research in the field of solar energy to find scientific solutions to the energy problem in Jordan. This was announced by Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Tamimi, from the university's Faculty of Engineering, who recently represented the university in the seventh world energy conference held in the USA last week. He added that he submitted a scientific research to the three-day conference on the design and development of solar heaters without pipes. This kind of heater, Dr. Tamimi explained, is characterised by high efficiency and low cost.

Scenes from S.Korea at Mu'ta

KARAK (Petra) — A five-day exhibition of paintings and photographs from Korea opened at Mu'ta University Saturday. The exhibition, organised in cooperation with the embassy of South Korea in Jordan, was opened by Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafza. The photographs and paintings depict the environment and ways of life in South Korea and relate the development of the country. South Korea's Ambassador to Jordan Dong Son Park was among the dignitaries attending the opening.

Jordan attends Arab TV festival

TUNISIA (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the third Arab television festival which began here Saturday with the participation of 12 Arab countries. Jordan is participating in the event with a local comedy, children's programmes and two documentaries on Petra and Mu'ta. Six prizes will be presented to the winning works in the week-long festival. Jordan has been elected a member of the arbitration committee of the children's programmes contest.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic indicators fluctuate nervously

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE Jordanian economy is no doubt passing through a transitional period. Economic indicators are not following a steady pattern. While some indicators are positive and others are negative, one thing is certain: The future is not necessarily a simple extension of the past. Econometricians and statisticians are prone to make grave mistakes if they base their predictions on "extended" indicators.

The Central Bank is not printing much money as was once forecast. On the contrary, currency in circulation has dropped sharply. In fact, during September, of which statistics are available, currency in circulation was reduced by around JD 1 million a day. Fortunately most of the reduction was in the form of increased deposits with the Central Bank rather than withdrawals of foreign currencies.

Money supply declined during September by around JD 30 million, yet there is no indication of tight credit. Paradoxically, commercial banks have extended during the same month around JD 43 million to the private sector in fresh credit facilities, the largest amount extended in any single month on record.

Gold and foreign exchange reserves declined by JD 5.7 million, a moderate amount, which does not reflect a clear trend.

Bank deposits stood at JD 1,672 million. Deposits in local currency gained JD 2.4 million during September while deposits in foreign currencies lost JD 8.5 million. This is a new trend suggesting that the Jordan dinar has become more attractive to depositors than foreign currencies. Apparently, some customers converted part of their dollars to dinars as a sign of confidence in the local currency and a fear of further decline in the value of the dollar.

There were also some structural changes in the banking deposits: Current accounts and saving accounts declined, while time deposits gained. This is an indication that financial assets are becoming more appealing to investors, who feel that under the circumstances, they need less for speculation and for current transactions. Due to low inflation expectations, the interest rate became positive. This reinforced the appeal of financial assets.

While the supply of money was declining in September at an unprecedented high rate, the cost of living soared at a rate of 1.7 per cent, and incredible annualised inflation rate of over 20 per cent. This contradiction with economic logic should puzzle Milton Friedman and his monetarist school. According to the Department of Statistics, the cost of schooling and education rose in the month of September by almost 9 per cent, which can only be explained as being a clerical error!

If the index continues to be stable during the last quarter of the year without any further rise, the average inflation rate during 1985 would be around 4 per cent. However, if further increases occur, the rate may reach as high as 4.25 per cent. Preliminary estimates put

the growth in gross national product for 1985 at 6.8 per cent in nominal terms. Should this estimate prove to be right, the real growth in constant prices would be in the order of 2.5 per cent, or half the percentage suggested by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech.

The outlook for 1986 is promising. The size of the country's budget indicates no drops in the level of economic activity. If the government is able to raise funds from Arab and other aid, as high as the budget suggests, the economy may have enough strength to push forward and overcome its present difficulties.

Lest they continue to forget

IT IS wrong for the Americans to believe that Thursday's U.N. General Assembly resolution, which called for an international peace conference on the Middle East, is mere "partisan rhetoric" which erodes the trust and confidence vital to negotiations. It is foolish of them to think that such a conference contributes to putting off the day when the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict can sit down together to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of their differences. Furthermore, it is dangerously selfish of the U.S. government to say that the Camp David style is the only road to peace and stability.

The Americans are wrong, foolish and dangerously selfish in their opposition to the proposed international conference simply because they would not acknowledge the fact — and it is a fact — that while Soviet and total Arab participation may not work successfully in any peace process it will certainly fail without it. The proof of this is in none other than the process which the Americans regard as the most successful in advancing the cause of peace in this area: Camp David.

The Camp David process, the Americans may recall or learn, has not only brought the cold peace front that now exists between Israel and Egypt; it had also precipitated the catastrophic Israeli invasion of Lebanon and has led to the hardening of Israeli positions on the occupied territories and the issue of Palestinian rights.

The international conference's idea is aimed precisely at avoiding these mistakes and troubles. It will not be, as the Americans contend, an ideological and propaganda exercise directed against Israel and would serve the ends only of those nations who feel they benefit from a continuation or an increase in tensions of the region. Rather, the conference will be a forum to test the sincerity and willingness of all parties to make an honourable and lasting peace based on U.N. resolutions and international legality.

Surely the Americans have not forgotten that they themselves favoured the international approach when on Oct. 1, 1977, both the U.S. and the Soviet Union issued their joint declaration on the Middle East in Geneva. But if they did, they must not continue to do so if they are truly interested in a settlement.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Opponents of peace

ONCE again the international community has called for an international conference that would bring peace to the Middle East. Once again, Israel and the United States stand alone with Canada in confrontation with such idea and in defiance of the will of the international community. The United States was more eloquent in its defiance by announcing through its U.N. ambassador that an international conference would not be conducive to establishing peace in the Middle East, or finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. Needless to say that such a statement is totally a falsehood and an attempt to escape responsibility. The bitter fact is that the United States has stopped recognising the importance of the international community and is now disregarding all its resolutions and world public opinion. But this defiance on the part of the United States and Israel can never discourage the Arabs or dissuade them from seeking a comprehensive solution for the problem. The Arabs recently showed unanimity on this stand, represented in the Jordanian-Syrian joint communique following talks in Amman by prime ministers from both countries. The communique reaffirmed that, through solidarity, the Arabs can and will regain their rights.

Al Dustour: Settlements on Arab lands

HOW can we explain Israel's determination to go ahead with plans to build more settlements on Arab land at a time when the Zionist state lacks the proper funds for them? There is only one explanation for that: Israel's total reliance on the United States to finance their construction in defiance of all Arabs and the will of the international community. Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday that Israel would build six more settlements before the end of the current month, thus emphasising his government's total disregard to Arab rights in their land and Israel's disrespect to all United Nations resolutions that demand the Jewish state to refrain from such action and to enter into negotiations for ending its occupation of Arab lands. Shamir's statement is another proof that the Israeli government is not interested in a peaceful solution with the Arabs and is not even contemplating the idea of peace. As we watch the Israelis announcing their intentions of building more colonies on Arab land and as we see these settlements being set up day after day, we realise that Israel is intent on keeping control over all the areas it occupies. But as we watch we feel our determination grows more and more strongly towards the need to liberate our usurped territory in every possible means available to us.

Sawt Al Shaab: Solidarity with Iraq

IN a show of support for Iraq in its war with Iran, and in solidarity with the Arab people of Iraq against the Iranian aggressors, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan made a visit to the war front and inspected Iraq's preparations to repel Iranian offensives. The visit took place as the whole world was told by the Iranian regime that the Iraqis will soon launch a major offensive on Iraq. Iran have already massed sufficient troops and military equipment for that purpose. Prince Hassan went to the front to convey to the Iraqi soldiers greetings from King Hussein and the Jordanian people and to emphasise Jordan's unwavering support and backing for the Iraqi endeavours to defeat the enemy and thwart its evil designs. Through such visit and such Jordanian act, in the face of the enemy which threatens the whole Arabian Gulf region, Jordan meant to set an example to the other Arab states to make them understand the dimension of the war and the danger that awaits all of them. The visit was also meant to make the Arabs understand that solidarity among Arab countries is a guarantee for their success and their victory over their enemies.

By Paul Nitze

Ambassador Nitze is special adviser to President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz on arms control. This article was prepared for a symposium on the Strategic Defence Initiative held in Rome by the Institute For Theology and Peace.

PRACTICAL considerations of national interest must be carefully analysed during internal deliberations on foreign and defence policy. However, for the United States, and I presume for Western democracies in general, ethical considerations provide the milieu within which, and the parameters between which, policy decisions are made. It is thus appropriate for me to discuss the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, or SDI, in ethical terms as well as in the more usual terms. I especially welcome the opportunity to consider the SDI programme in this way because the principal impetus behind it is moral.

Dr. Nagel mentioned in his introduction to this symposium that moral judgment on an action is made on the basis of two realities: Intention and foreseeable consequences. Of course, such "realities" can be both elusive and controversial. I will first review our thinking on the morality of our present deterrent posture, then discuss our intentions with regard to SDI (on which there is considerable clarity), and finally move to the subject of foreseeable consequences of the deployment of SDI-type systems (about which there is still considerable disagreement).

Morality of deterrence

Our basic aim is to live in peace with freedom. To maintain peace it is necessary to deter those who would wish to gain by war or the threat of war. Deterrence requires that potential aggressors be faced with the prospect of effective resistance, which entails the denial of potential gain and the risk of unacceptable damage. Deterrence based on the ability to defend is moral because it enables us to maintain freedom. We should, however, plan to deter and defend with the minimum level of force consistent with that purpose. If there is no available alternative other than the threat of nuclear retaliation, then this is the necessary and moral course. If, through adequate defences, as envisioned by the SDI concept, one can deter attack primarily by denying a potential aggressor the prospect of military success, movement toward greater reliance on defences becomes the preferable and the moral course.

Rationale

Ever since President Reagan directed the U.S. government to undertake a close examination of the possibilities of strategic defence in March 1983, U.S. actions have been explained as both response and inspiration.

The U.S. SDI is partly a response to Soviet activities in strategic offensive and defensive arms. When the U.S. and the Soviet Union signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile, or ABM, Treaty in 1972, it was our hope and assumption that, with the stringent limits on defences against ballistic missiles embodied in that treaty, it would be possible to negotiate significant reductions in strategic offensive nuclear arms.

It was believed that the nuclear relationship would be stable if each side had survivable retaliatory offensive forces roughly equal in capability to those of the other side and was, at the same time, virtually defenceless against ballistic missile attack — and, therefore open to the other's retaliatory blow. In such a situation neither side would have an incentive to strike first, even in the most dire circumstances. It was felt the way would then be open for strategically significant limitations on and reductions in offensive arms.

Unfortunately, that has not happened. The Soviets — during SALT II and the 1982-83 S.T.A.R.T. (Strategic Arms Red-

uction Talks) negotiations — showed little genuine readiness to discuss meaningful limits on or cuts in offensive arms. Instead, they greatly expanded their strategic offensive arsenals in the years following 1972. The Soviet Union has taken full advantage of the combination of multiple warheads, large ballistic missiles, and increasing missile accuracy permitted by SALT I and SALT II. The Soviets have used this combination to create the most worrisome element of the current strategic equation — a ballistic missile force capable of threatening virtually the entire range of targets in the United States that comprise the fixed land-based portion of our retaliatory forces. These developments on the offensive side are contrary to what we had anticipated in 1972.

During the same period, the Soviets have been pursuing major efforts on the defensive side. In fact, over the past 20 years, they have spent roughly as much for strategic defence as they have for their massive offensive nuclear buildup. These efforts are manifested in a dense air defence network, extensive passive defences, and the world's only operational ABM and anti-satellite systems. Moreover, the Soviets have for many years devoted extensive resources and energy to investigating many of the same technologies that we are now examining in SDI.

The aggregate of Soviet offensive and defensive activities since 1972 — some of which are in violation of, or raise troubling questions for, compliance with existing arms control agreements — is persuasive evidence that the Soviets did not accept the concept of stable mutual deterrence on which we believed the ABM treaty to be based.

The U.S. SDI is, therefore, a prudent response to Soviet activities, and could be defended as a moral undertaking on this basis alone. But it is much more than that. It flows in large part from President Reagan's belief that the initiative is a moral imperative. While deterrence based on the threat of offensive nuclear retaliation must form the basis of Western security policy as long as there is no better deterrent at hand, we must not be content to confine ourselves to that goal in perpetuity. President Reagan has asked whether it might not be possible to offer a better and brighter vision for the future — one in which deterrence would be based more on the ability to defend rather than to retaliate with predictably tragic devastation. If a better way is possible, we have an obligation to search for it.

There is a striking similarity between President Reagan's explanation of his reasons for pursuing SDI and the German Bishops' presentation of ethical criteria for deterrence in their joint pastoral letter of 1983. Pope John Paul II is cited by the latter as indicating that, to ensure peace, one must not be content with reducing destructive potential to a minimum, because even a low level of such potential is always fraught with a real danger of explosion. The bishops contend that "for this reason, all responsible persons in the state and in society have the urgent duty to strive with their whole strength towards finding alternatives to the threat of mass destruction."

President Reagan's search for alternatives has been aided by technological advances which have taken place since 1972. In the late 1960s, when we were examining ABM systems, we concluded that the existing technology was such that adding offensive systems to overcome ABM defences would be less costly than adding additional defensive systems. Technology has come a long way since then, and it may well be possible in the future to reverse that conclusion.

Great strides have been made in effectiveness and reduced cost in many areas relevant to ballistic missiles defence, such as microelectronics, data processing,

and sensors. These may now make possible survivable and cost-effective defensive systems that were beyond the reach of technology only 15 years ago.

Nature of the programme

Before discussing the foreseeable consequences of moving forward with the SDI concept, I believe it worthwhile to review exactly what the SDI programme is, for there are many misconceptions. SDI is a research programme that is investigating the feasibility of new defensive technologies, both earth- and space-based. We have made no decisions to go beyond research. The programme is and will be conducted in full conformity with the ABM treaty, the Outer Space Treaty and the Limited Test Ban Treaty.

Should SDI prove new defensive technologies feasible, by indicating that defensive systems can meet demanding criteria of survivability and cost-effectiveness, we believe the strategic balance could be made more stable by greater reliance on such defences. Survivable and cost-effective defences could so complicate a potential attacker's planning for a first strike that such an attack could not be seriously contemplated and deterrence would thus be significantly enhanced. Additionally, such defences would render a continued offensive buildup futile, by providing clear disincentives to any effort to overcome them through growth in offensive forces. Indeed by depriving offensive ballistic missile forces of much or all of their military utility, such defences would provide a powerful incentive for deep reductions in offensive forces.

Looking to the more distant future, strategic defences might make an important contribution toward the eventual elimination of nuclear arms. Achieving the ultimate objective would, of course, presuppose a much more cooperative overall East-West relationship, one in which, for example, efforts to establish conventional force balances at lower levels and to enhance mutual confidence should also prove fruitful.

Even should all nuclear arms be eliminated, the technical knowledge required to make such weapons would remain, and we would need to deal with the danger of cheating or exploitation by irresponsible elements. Non-nuclear defensive systems would serve that purpose.

We have no preconceived judgments about the outcome of the research programme, about whether it will yield practical new defensive options, or if deterrence must continue to rest almost exclusively on offensive nuclear retaliatory capabilities. Our near-term arms control objective is to restore the situation envisioned in the 1970s: Sharply reduced and more stable offensive forces and full compliance with the ABM treaty.

The results of the SDI research programme will provide the information and data base necessary for a future administration and Congress to make an informed decision, sometime in the next decade, about whether to begin the process of shifting toward an offense-defence mix placing greater

reliance on defence than at present.

Consequences

I have attempted to present the nature of the SDI programme and the intentions behind it in some detail. I do not believe that there should be controversy about these realities. I understand, however, how there can be differences of opinion on the foreseeable consequences of pursuing the SDI concept, since predicting the future is always a perilous undertaking.

"If our hopes are fulfilled, if matters proceed in the future as we hope, there will be little doubt about the benefits for world peace. If new defensive technologies prove feasible, and therefore a transition to greater defence reliance seems desirable, we envision a jointly managed approach with the Soviet Union, designed to maintain, at all times, control over the mix of offensive and defensive systems of both sides and thereby to increase the confidence of all nations in the effectiveness and stability of the evolving strategic balance."

I have mentioned that we cannot be sure of the outcome of our research efforts. However, we do know that stability is built into our criteria for determining whether or not deployment is justified. If a defensive system were not adequately survivable, an adversary could very well have an incentive in a crisis to strike first at vulnerable elements of the defence. Application of our survivability criterion will ensure that such a vulnerable system would not be deployed, and that any system which is deployed would be survivable enough to convince the Soviets that it could not be successfully attacked.

Our cost-effectiveness criterion will ensure that any deployed defensive system would create a powerful incentive not to respond with additional offensive arms, since those arms would cost more than the additional defensive capability needed to defeat them. We thus intend to consider, in our evaluation of options generated by SDI research, the degree to which certain types of defensive systems, by their nature, encourage an adversary to try simply to overwhelm them with additional offensive capability while other systems can discourage such a counter-effort. We seek defensive options which provide clear disincentives to attempts to counter them with additional offensive forces.

Soviet reactions

Assessing probable Soviet reactions to U.S. strategic defence activities plays an important role in foreseeing overall consequences, and this is one of the reasons for the extent of controversy surrounding the SDI issue. Moreover, Soviet perceptions and reactions will be important during the research phase, regardless of whether or not the research proves new technologies for strategic defence feasible. We do not, however, believe that the Soviets' reaction, particularly their initial reaction, is all-important. While we believe that U.S.-Soviet cooperation in moving to a more defence-reliant posture is clearly preferable, we cannot accord the Soviets a veto



over future defensive deployments.

Our ethical (and our self-interested) responsibility with regard to the Soviets is to make clear that our intentions for SDI are benign, and that our desire for a jointly managed transition to a more defence-reliant balance is genuine.

The U.S. has acted vigorously to demonstrate our bona fides. President Reagan has repeatedly emphasized that SDI does not represent an attempt to gain unilateral advantage or superiority. From the outset of the nuclear and space arms talks in Geneva, we have sought to discuss with the Soviets the offense-defence relationship and the requirements for stability, in order to allay stated Soviet concerns and to lay the foundations for future cooperation during the transition. During the second round of these negotiations, we presented information on the U.S. SDI programme to the Soviets in some detail. In the new U.S. initiative at the end of the last round, we proposed that the Soviets join us in an "open laboratories" arrangement under which both sides would provide information on each other's strategic defence research programme, and provide opportunities for visiting associated research facilities and laboratories.

The Soviets have given us little

evidence thus far that they accept the mutual advantages which could accrue from a deterrent balance placing greater emphasis on defence. General Secretary Gorbachev vigorously disputed the point during his meetings with President Reagan on November 19-20. However, he seemed also to accept President Reagan's sincerity in explaining the motivation for SDI. Soviet reluctance to concede the case for greater reliance by both sides on defence is certainly in part caused by the near-term political benefits to be derived from attacking the U.S. SDI programme, both in stimulating domestic opposition in the U.S., and in provoking differences between the U.S. and its allies. The Soviets obviously see advantages in the pursuit of their own strategic defence programme. We know, moreover, that Soviet positions can change abruptly, and we do not think their last word has been spoken on the SDI concept.

We cannot yet fully evaluate our prospects for technological success with SDI. We also cannot predict with precision what the political consequences of our efforts will be. I believe we can be confident about the ethical justification for initiating SDI, and for seeking to ensure that the consequences of the programme lead toward greater stability and a reduced risk of war — U.S. Information Agency.

LETTERS

Blind judgment

To the Editor:

THE TRAGIC road accident that took place on the road between Amman and Aqaba several days ago overwhelmed the public with feelings of remorse, frustration and apprehension. Victims and/or their families are known to many and many others have had contacts with the school and its staff. The radio, television and press reports on the accident emphasised the general feelings of fear, anger and even frustrations.

Yet people who visited the scene after the accident have, however, a different story than that reported by the media.

According to them the accident occurred as a result of a strong blow which the schoolbus received from the rear by a vehicle, believed to be a truck, causing the latter to swerve to the left at a moment when the collision with the tanker truck was unavoidable and fatal. Visitors also add that the bus' back window glass was shattered 20 metres before the spot where the accident occurred.

The bus left Amman at 5 a.m. and the accident took place two hours later which means it had made no more than 80 km in two hours!

The whole story was presented by the media and the police as a case of negligence and lack of self-control, and a consequent inevitable loss of control over the vehicle on the driver's side. Parents of school kids all over Jordan were questioning and accusing the school concerned, and hidden doubts about school outings and similar activities were surfacing.

It seems to me that a lot of injustice has been done which was not rectified later on. Through contacts and friends I found out that that school trip was very well planned and the driver carefully chosen. The management of the school, in an attempt to keep all under control and for the sake of students' welfare and safe return, went even as far as the headmaster himself with his two children accompanying the trip!

If the bus swerved to the left due to another lorry hitting it from the rear, then there was a third party involved in the collision, a point which has never been brought to light!

I can't help but wonder if anybody believes that the driver, an experienced, retired army driver in his late fifties, father of five kids, driving the bus of the school (where he works), under his employer's supervision, would be driving at a recklessly high speed and overtaking without any consideration.

It seems to me that the tendency prevailing in Jordan of blaming all accidents on overspeeding and wrong overtaking, has made us loose our sense of balanced judgement and professionalism.

Raghad Asleh
Amman



General view of Tell Maquss, with the two excavation trenches visible in centre and left of tell.



The walls, with curved corners, excavated in the south-eastern trench. The entrance to the building is visible just beneath the measuring stick, in centre-foreground of photo.

University of Jordan excavations uncover 5,500-year-old Chalcolithic era copper-working settlement near Aqaba

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

Despite our considerable knowledge, gleaned mainly from literary references, of the Aqaba area's role throughout ancient history as a port, copper smelting centre, and trans-shipment point for commercial goods, the Aqaba area has hardly been cracked by an archaeologist's spade.

The most extensive excavations at Aqaba were carried out in the late 1930's by the American archaeologist Nelson Glueck, a pioneer in Jordanian archaeology who was particularly interested in identifying archaeological sites with towns and other sites mentioned in the Bible.

He dug the site of Tell Khaleif, north-west of Aqaba, a major Iron Age settlement occupied during the 8th-5th/4th Centuries B.C. Glueck thought it may have been inhabited during the 10th Century B.C., when King Solomon had a major copper smelting centre at a site in the Aqaba area called Eziongheer/Elat in the Bible.

Tell Khaleif is now inaccessible to the public, because of its location alongside the 1948 armistice line with Israel. After Glueck's excavations ended in 1940, Aqaba remained untouched by archaeologists for the next 45 years — until, earlier this year, when a University of Jordan professor and his M.A. students started uncovering the remains of a settlement at Aqaba dating from the Chalcolithic period, or some 5,500 years ago.

Dr. Lutfi Khalil, Assistant Professor at the University of Jordan's Department of Archaeology, led a team of his M.A. students on a one-month dig at Tell Maquss. The site is a relatively large tell located some four kilometres north of the coastline, alongside the road to Aqaba airport. The tell is 30 metres east of the road, one kilometre past the police post on the way to the airport.

The tell was first discovered in 1967 when the roadworks cut through its western half, revealing ancient cultural artifacts buried

within it. Mr. Tom Raikes, a British engineer with a keen interest in and an even keener eye for archaeological remains in southern Jordan, was working in the area at the time, and noticed cultural and occupational remains exposed in the cut part of the tell.

He noted ash and organic debris, pottery, worked flint and stone tools, bones, ornaments and tools made from seashells, and fragments of copper ore, slag and the occasional small piece of copper. The site remained untouched, however, until this year's excavations by Dr. Khalil, a London-trained specialist in ancient metallurgy and mining processes.

The evidence of ancient copper mining and smelting in the Aqaba region intrigued him, and in April of this year he took his M.A. students for an initial reconnaissance visit to Tell Maquss, which he followed up with the one-month dig in August/September.

The name Tell Maquss comes from the nearby former train siding ("maquss" in Arabic, or "maguss" in the local dialect), which is also the name given to the entire area near the police post on the way to the airport.

The dig was sponsored and funded by the University of Jordan, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities. Dr. Khalil also received exemplary cooperation from the Aqaba Region Authority, an institution that has shown itself particularly sensitive to the concern and effort required to safeguard Jordan's rich archaeological heritage for future generations.

Tell Maquss rises nearly six metres at its highest point, and measures approximately 75 x 50 metres. Part of the west side of the tell was sliced away when the road was built. During the first exploratory season, Dr. Khalil dug only two squares, on the east and north sides of the tell.

The square on the lower east side of the tell revealed a 1.5-metre-deep deposit of sand, the result of either depositing from the nearby Wadi Yitum, or of the constant wind-blown activity in the area.

Beneath the sandy layer, the

excavators revealed part of a building made of undressed stones, particularly heavy because of their rich mineral content.

The standing walls had rounded corners, and a well preserved entrance. The inside and outside faces of the entrance, and parts of the interior faces of the walls, were covered in a straw-reinforced mud plaster, but without any traces of painting.

In a corner of this building were considerable charcoal remains and burnt bricks, which Dr. Khalil interprets as a possible furnace. Outside the building was a related mud surface with a pit, an installation whose purpose cannot yet be determined from the available evidence.

The building and the cultural artifacts collected all date from the late Chalcolithic period, around 3500 B.C., Dr. Khalil said in a recent interview here with the Jordan Times. The tell seems to be a single-period site that was only occupied during the late Chalcolithic, though why this should be the case is not yet clear.

One theory, suggested by Mr. Raikes, is that the settlement's underground water supply dried up when the water table (part of the Wadi Yitum outwash) dropped to a level that made it too difficult to sink underground wells.

In the second trench, on the summit on the north part of the tell, the excavators came down upon part of the remains of another building, from the same late Chalcolithic period. They uncovered an L-shaped stone wall that seems to be from a domestic structure.

Outside it, to the north, was an installation composed of at least three pits. The pits were found empty, but their floors and sides were lined with the same straw-reinforced mud plaster found on the walls and entrance in the trench on the lower east side of the tell.

Dr. Khalil feels the pits were related to some domestic, rather than industrial, purpose, perhaps storage or even shelter.

From the two 4 x 5-metre trenches, the excavators retrieved large quantities of artifacts which

will help reconstruct many aspects of the Chalcolithic settlement's material culture and socio-economic base. The typical Chalcolithic pottery has characteristic mat impressions on the bases, and ledge handles.

In the corner of the domestic structure on the summit, the archaeologists retrieved an intact and unique jar that was still standing on the floor of the building. It has unusual handles, and applied incised decorative patterns on the handles and the neck of the jar.

The dig produced many shell-made objects (such as beads and bracelets) and unworked shells from the Red Sea, including conch, giant clams and mother of pearl shells. Stone tools included many typical retouched Chalcolithic period pieces, such as blades, scrapers and knives. There is also evidence of worked bone, such as loom pins.

The precise date of the settlement will be determined when the artifacts are fully studied, and when Dr. Khalil analyses the results of Carbon-14 dating tests being carried out at the British Museum on samples of carbonised material and shells.

The site also produced evidence of ancient metallurgy, in the form of raw copper ores, some slag, lumps and beads of refined copper, an ingot-like piece of copper, and finished, simple-shaped copper objects, such as awls.

From his preliminary analysis, Dr. Khalil believes that secondary metallurgical processing took place here. He suggests that copper ores mined in the area of southern Jordan were initially smelted somewhere else, and the smaller lumps of copper were brought to the settlement at Tell Maquss to be worked into finished products.

Further micro-analysis of the copper remains will allow Dr. Khalil to determine precisely where the raw copper was mined. The two major sources of copper ore that were mined in antiquity in southern Jordan are the Feinan-Wadi Khaleid deposits some 150 kilometres to the north, on the east side of the Wadi Araba, and the Khirbet el-Mene'a (Timna) deposits on the west side of the

Wadi Araba, some 30 kilometres north-west of Aqaba.

The presence of small lumps of copper is a good indicator of secondary processing, he said, adding that he sees the Chalcolithic settlement as more of an industrial than a residential occupation.

If this is so, then where was the residential area where the people lived?

One possibility is another large tell (perhaps three times larger than Tell Maquss) about 1.5 kilometres to the east, known as Hujair el-Ghuzla.

Next year, Dr. Khalil plans to survey a ten-kilometre radius of the Aqaba shoreline, to identify

other archaeological sites in the vicinity. He also plans to continue the excavations at Tell Maquss, and put in a few soundings at Hujair el-Ghuzla.

Another future project will seek to determine the relationship of Tell Maquss to the Red Sea shoreline in antiquity. It is possible that the sea was much closer to the site in antiquity than the present four kilometres, as some archaeologists have speculated.

This can only be determined by placing small soundings at regular intervals between the tell and the present shoreline, and examining the sediments in cooperation with geologists.



Two University of Jordan M.A. students excavate the rare Chalcolithic jar at Tell Maquss.



The unique Chalcolithic period jar with large ledge handles and incised decoration, excavated from the trench at the summit of the tell.



Dr. Lutfi Khalil (foreground) and two of his M.A. students excavate at Tell Maquss.

U.S. satellites to improve weather predicting services

By Jeanne S. Holden

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials have announced procurement of three advanced geostationary weather satellites, calling it a major step in moving the U.S. weather warning and forecast system into the 21st century.

The new satellites will provide improved short-term weather forecasts and more accurate storm warnings over local areas, according to top officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Three next-generation Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) will be developed by Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation, with the delivery of the first unit scheduled for July 1989. The contract calls for three spacecraft and an option for two additional units.

In a joint press briefing December 9, officials described improvements in weather forecasting that the advanced satellites will provide.

Unlike the present generation of GOES satellites, which has a multi-purpose instrument for imaging and sounding, the new generation will have both an imager and a sounder independent of one another," said Burton Edelson, NASA's Assistant Administrator for Space Science and Applications. Because the imager and sounder, developed by International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) operate simultaneously, "we will get sounding measurements so crucial for severe storm warnings and research without interrupting the routine flow of cloud imagery we need to measure wind speed," he explained.

Donald Rassier, the president of Ford Aerospace, told reporters that the imager produces visual and infrared images of the earth's surface, the oceans, cloud cover and storm developments. The new system's quality in the visible spectrum "is comparable to standing in New York and detecting 74/5 land in California," he said.

Rassier added that the infrared image also is "greatly improved even though the optics are smaller and less expensive than the present system." According to a NOAA statement released at the briefing, the infrared measurements for identifying clouds made with the new satellite will be four times higher in resolution than measurements taken with present satellite systems.

The sounder measures atmospheric temperature by sensing the amount of infrared radiation given off by the air at different altitudes. Each of its 19 channels is tuned to measure the infrared energy coming from a different layer of the atmosphere, according to ITT. With the new satellites' three-axis stabilised platform, Rassier said, "the sounder can dwell on a given spot providing temperature measurements three times more accurate than the present system."

The three-axis stabilised platform, which allows sensors to stare at the earth continuously, will allow the new satellites to make more efficient and more effective use of their sensing systems overall, Edelson said. "Their constant earth orientation will help us to acquire more accurate temperature and moisture profiles, and thus enable us to predict severe storms more accurately," he added.

According to Ford Aerospace, the GOES satellites will detect and monitor weather developments over the contiguous 48 states of the United States, a major portion of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, and the central and western Atlantic Ocean.

"The U.S. weather satellite programme is the direct outgrowth of a highly successful partnership of NASA, NOAA and industry," which began in the late 1950s, Edelson said. NASA develops the technology to meet NOAA's needs; industry builds the satellites; and, after NASA tests them out, NOAA operates them.

The GOES satellite programme — in conjunction with new radar equipment and advanced computer facilities — "are the essential elements needed to upgrade NOAA weather operations," NOAA Administrator Anthony Calio said. He said the new system will give NOAA the capability to compile accurate weather forecasting data in order to "enhance public safety, protect property and promote wise economic development."

In addition to weather monitoring capabilities, Rassier said, the new satellites will add to the cooperative international search and rescue programme carried out by the United States, Canada, France and the Soviet Union. "A dedicated search and rescue transponder will detect distress signals from aircraft and ships immediately and relay them to ground terminals to get searches underway and speed help to people in trouble," he said.

The new satellites also will be the first weather satellites specifically designed for shuttle launch. Edelson stressed that launch costs could be reduced significantly when the satellites share the shuttle's cargo bay with other deployable payloads.

In addition Rassier said the new GOES satellites were designed to look toward the future. Its modular design, he said, is extremely versatile and has the capability for large power and weight margins. Thus the satellite can be adapted for additional operational or research instruments without compromising its principal mission.

Geostationary satellites view about one-third of the globe day and night. Due to the distance of the satellites from the earth (35,200 kilometres) and their orbital location over the equator, they match pace with the earth's rotation such that they view the same third of the world continuously — U.S. Information Agency.

Experts strive to cut death toll in disasters

By Myra MacDonald
Reuter

GRENOBLE, France — Despite major technological advances this century, tens of thousands of people still die needlessly because their countries are not prepared for disasters.

This was the message of scientists, doctors and civil defence officials who met last month in this Alpine French town for the fourth International Conference on Disaster Medicine.

Haroun Tazieff, French minister for the Prevention of Disasters and honorary president of the conference, was among those to stress the need for preparation. "People should be told beforehand what to do in an earthquake," Tazieff told reporters at the conference. "They should know they can increase their chances of surviving ten times by standing in a door or window frame."

"Buildings do not usually collapse until about 10 seconds after the tremor so they can decide whether they have time to run outside or not," he said.

Tazieff, also a renowned geologist, said that all 23,000 victims of last month's volcanic eruption in Colombia would have lived if the Nevado del Ruiz volcano had been properly observed and the people prepared for evacuation.

In Mexico, where some 4,000 died in an earthquake in September, many would have survived if the buildings had been stronger, Tazieff said.

"What happened after Colombia? What happened after Mexico? There was no organised rescue operation," he said.

It was a complaint echoed by doctors who worked in such places as Bhopal, India, where some 2,500 people died when poisonous gas leaked from a pesticides factory last December, or Bangladesh where a cyclone in May killed thousands and left 250,000 homeless.

"In a disaster situation doctors have to know not to waste one minute trying to save someone who has no hope of survival," Tazieff said, adding that this was a principle of disaster medicine even though it runs counter to normal medical ethics.

Doctors had to be specially trained to divide victims into categories to give priority of treatment, French professor Pierre Huguenard, who teaches one of the world's few courses on disaster medicine, told the conference.

First developed by the Americans in the Vietnam war, the system calls for three categories: Firstly serious injuries that require immediate treatment, secondly the not so serious cases, and thirdly non-emergency cases, fatal injuries and corpses.

"Disaster medicine is a very cruel science," one delegate explained. "But in the end it can save hundreds of lives."

Americans lose a nostalgic relic of youth

By Steve James
Reuter

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia — The drive-in cinema, a nostalgic memory of youth for millions of middle-aged Americans, is slowly fading from the scene.

More and more of the outdoor cinemas where generations of young people met, made love, came of age and did just about anything except watch the film are falling to the wrecker.

Among the latest victims is the Mount Vernon drive-in in George Washington's old home town of Alexandria.

Once an entrepreneur named Richard Hollingshead set up the first giant outdoor film screen in

Camden, New Jersey, in 1933, summer nights at "the drive-in" became part of growing up in America, where the automobile was, and still is, king.

"It was a way to sneak out and drink beer or meet guys," reminisces Debbie Holmgren, a computer saleswoman from Aptos, California. "But we usually went in a group. If a boy asked you out you knew you had to kiss and pet."

"They were places of ill-repute, and everyone flocked there." America's drive-ins — there are a few in other countries but the idea never really caught on abroad — hit their peak in the late 1950s. In the early 1960s they were the favoured place for young people to meet.

The slang term "passion pit" entered American English as a synonym for drive-in.

Now the open-air cinemas are in danger of going the way of the gas-guzzling cars with chrome strips and fins that used to park on the gravel-topped lots next to the loudspeaker posts.

According to the National Association of Theatre Owners, there were 2,840 U.S. drive-ins in 1984 compared to a high of 4,663 in 1958. In their heyday, drive-ins accounted for 20 to 25 per cent of all U.S. cinema receipts.

Today, many of those that still function have become seedy, showing horror or sex films.

Why are they fading away? Perhaps it has something to do with cars being smaller today than they were before the oil price rises of the 1970s.

"Probably you could do more in the back seat of a Dodge than in a (Volkswagen) Rabbit," mused cinema industry spokeswoman Lisa Lefer.

Lefer is public relations director of Redstone Theatres, which operates more than 300 screens at cinemas and drive-ins in the north-east and midwest.

She said the company was pulling down the Mount Vernon drive-in, another in Virginia and one in New Jersey in favour of the latest trend — indoor cinemas with eight to 10 separate screens

known as "multiplexes". Lefer said drive-ins were still very popular in some areas but in general today's parents preferred conventional cinemas.

"Parents feel more comfortable dropping off their 14- and 15-year-olds in that kind of environment. Drive-ins were very risqué," she said.

In addition, she said, Hollywood is producing more films these days and cinemas with multiple screens can show more of the new releases.

Finally, the high cost of land means theatre owners want more return from their investment than they can get from drive-ins. In many parts of the country the cli-

mate restricts outdoor viewing to four or five months of the year.

Economics and social change aside, the drive-in experience left the trace of memories captured in such teen-culture nostalgia films as "American graffiti" or "porky's".

James Donaldson, a husbandman in suburban Boston, said:

"The food was always terrible, but they were places to go to drink and you could have a wild time."

"In high school we used to take dates there, but after a while, you'd just ask them to go to the movies and not mention the drive-in until after you picked them up."

No chances of rigging seen possible in today's draw for World Cup finals

No-one will doubt the purity of 5-year-old boy

MEXICO CITY (R) — A five-year-old boy will make the first important moves of next year's World Cup soccer finals in Mexico on Sunday when he performs the ritual draw for the first round groupings of the 24 finalists.

Luis Javier Barroso, grandson of the head of the Mexican organising committee, has been entrusted with the draw as part of the International Football Federation's (FIFA) bid to lift the ceremony above reproach.

He will be deciding at a stroke, as he fumbles in a goldfish bowl, in which group, where and against whom each of the 18 non-seeded countries will be playing. The six seeds have already been allocated a group each and a venue.

After the many suspect draws of the past, when it often seemed rigging was taking place to ensure the best teams did not eliminate one another in the early stages, Luis Javier has been chosen because no-one will doubt his purity.

FIFA officials have conceded that the draw is "directed" to ensure that the best teams are kept apart for as long as possible. But this year, as FIFA Secretary-General Joseph Blatter of Switzerland said, it "will be directed,

but not as much as it has in the past."

Luis Javier's responsibility is enlarged by the widely-held belief that the tournament's reversion to a knock-out system after the first round promises the most exciting finals in World Cup history.

From the initial 24, who will play in six first round groups, 16 go through to the next round of sudden-death — the top two from each group plus the four other teams with the next best points tallies or goal differences.

They will play eight matches in the second round with the winners going through to the quarterfinals, the semifinals and, ultimately, the final.

The starting line-up is extraordinary, including three-times winners Brazil, European champions France, holders Italy, hosts Mexico, consistent West Germany and Poland, much-improved England, emerging Denmark, unpredictable Portugal

and the fighting gaels of Northern Ireland and Scotland.

British fans believe the knock-out system could favour their teams, who are more used to the cut-and-thrust of knock-out soccer than their rivals.

England, for example, were unbeaten at the 1982 Spanish finals, but failed to reach the semifinals because of the group system while Scotland suffered a similar fate in West Germany in 1974.

The draw will be made in a complex system aimed at producing six evenly-balanced first round groups each headed by one of the seeded countries — Italy, Mexico, France, Brazil, West Germany and Poland.

Italy will head group A in Puebla, Mexico will head group B in Mexico City and nearby Toluca, France will head group C in Leon and Irapuato, Brazil will head group D in Guadalajara, West Germany will head group E in Queretaro and Poland will head group F in Monterrey.

The remaining 18 countries will be divided between three bowls according to FIFA's judgement of their ability.

England, Spain and the Soviet Union, for example, join the remaining three South American countries in one bowl while the least-experienced sides — Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, South Korea, Canada and Denmark — are in another.

The only other piece of "direction" admitted by FIFA is that the three non-seeded South Americans — Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina — will not be put into Brazil's group.

While the draw starts the final countdown to the tournament, it also ends two years of qualifying games and puts paid to any lingering fears that the tournament might be called off.

Last September's earthquake in Mexico City, which killed more than 7,000 people and destroyed thousands of buildings, raised the possibility that the finals would be moved elsewhere.

But all the stadiums and most of the hotels designated for teams,

officials and journalists have survived and the tournament will go ahead.

The venue for the draw was changed last week and it will take place in the studios of the private television station Televisa which controls the consortium that will run the TV coverage of the tournament.

The change was made at the last minute in a rare turnaround by government officials after protests at the original site. It was to have been held in the magnificent palace of fine arts, but Mexico's artistic community protested vehemently. They said holding a soccer draw in the palace would be "like turning a cathedral into a cantina (bar)."

The change in venue also reflected political infighting among senior government officials. The final choice showed the influence of Televisa, diplomats here said. Ironically, elaborate invitations to the draw, issued to journalists, still listed the palace of fine arts as the venue.

Earlier Friday the special altitude-designed ball for the tournament was displayed for the first time and Mexico's President Miguel De La Madrid inaugurated the press centre.

The white ball, bearing a triangular Aztec Indian design to reflect the native history of Mexico, was formally handed to the president of FIFA, Joao Havelange, by the West German firm which designed it.

After a dance display by 24 teenage girls, each in the strip of a World Cup qualifying country, two copies of the official ball were handed to a representative of each competing nation.

Only Scotland did not receive a ball.

Scottish journalists said the delegation from the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and team manager Alex Ferguson had decided to postpone their arrival for the draw on Sunday to the last minute to save money.

The ball, usually just an excuse for advertising, has taken on added significance this year due to the high altitude of the match venues.

Mexico City, where most of the games including the final will be played, is almost 2,300 metres above sea level so the ball is significantly heavier than in previous years.

United stays top as Liverpool crashes

LONDON (R) — Injury-hit Manchester United retained their position at the top of the English Soccer First Division when they recaptured something of their early-season form to win 3-1 at Aston Villa Saturday.

In spite of an injury list that would have left most clubs unable to field a worthy First Division team, United played with plenty of verve and style and their goals from Clayton Blackmore, Gordon Strachan and Mark Hughes were well deserved.

Their victory stretched their lead at the top to five points as nearest rivals Liverpool — who had crept nearer and nearer in recent weeks, reducing a ten-point gap to just two points — were beaten 2-0 at Arsenal.

Arsenal's triumph, inspired by an unexpectedly influential debut by 19-year-old former Gaelic footballer Niall Quinn, ended Liverpool's run of 14 games without defeat and provided their hardy fans with the Londoners' first goals in four league games.

London's chief challengers for the title, West Ham and Chelsea, both won.

West Ham beat Birmingham 2-0 and Chelsea overcame fifth-placed Sheffield Wednesday 2-1, but champions Everton were surprisingly beaten 2-1 at home by Leicester.

West Ham's victory was their ninth in succession and included yet another goal from their prolific Scottish international striker Frank McAvennie — his 19th of the season.

McAvennie side-footed home in the 36th minute and fellow-Scottish Ray Stewart added the second from a penalty three minutes later to leave Birmingham languishing in the bottom three of the league table and extend West Ham's unbeaten run to 17 games.

West Ham remain third behind Manchester United and Liverpool, but ahead of Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday, Everton and Arsenal whose win Saturday enabled them to leapfrog Luton and

regain eighth place.

Scottish striker Charlie Nicholas put Arsenal on the way to victory with a third minute goal against Liverpool following a good run by Quinn.

Quinn, who had scored 18 goals in 19 games for Arsenal reserves, only learned he was playing one hour before the kick-off.

But he showed no nerves and added the second goal after 25 minutes when he converted a rebound after Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar had failed to hold a shot by Paul Davis.

Manchester United went in front at Aston Villa through reserve winger Blackmore after 19 minutes, but the home side equalised through Steve Hodge only 10 minutes later.

United lifted the pace in the second half, however, and Strachan and Hughes put the result beyond doubt with the goals that unexpectedly recreated a gap at the top of the division.

Fourth-placed Chelsea owed their win over fifth-placed She-

ffield Wednesday to goals from David Speedie and Nigel Spackman. Brian Marwood replying with a second-half penalty.

Everton, in sixth position, slipped up badly against struggling Leicester.

Kevin Richardson put the champions ahead with a fine individual goal, but Gary McAllister and Alan Smith replied after the interval.

Luton, seventh Saturday morning, lost for the first time in four games, when they were beaten 2-0 at Nottingham Forest, Nigel Clough and Neil Webb ensuring Forest's victory.

Manchester City, who have struggled since their promotion, found their form Saturday and crushed Coventry City 5-1, Welsh international striker Gordon Davies scoring twice.

Elsewhere, Newcastle beat Southampton 2-1 while London clubs Queens Park Rangers and Tottenham were each beaten 1-0 at Ipswich and Watford respectively.

Frenchman sounds warning to Masters

SYDNEY (R) — Frenchman Henri Leconte Saturday sounded a warning to the world's top players competing in the Masters tennis tournament in New York next month when he stormed into his first grass court Grand Prix final.

Sunday 22-year-old Leconte meets New Zealand's Kelly Evernden in the final of the \$145,000 New South Wales men's open here.

The brilliant left-hander gave American Matt Anger a lesson in grass court tennis as he raced to a 6-4, 6-3 semifinal win.

Ranked 20th in the world, Lec-

onte is a tremendously gifted player with a huge array of shots.

He will prove a real handful for Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe, Mats Wilander and company in the prestigious Masters event.

His ability to flash winners off both the forehand and backhand left the unfortunate Anger staring Saturday.

Evernden, playing in only his second Grand Prix final Sunday, will need to be at the top of his game to defeat Leconte.

The 24-year-old New Zealand star beat American Mark Dickson 6-4, 7-6, winning the tie-

break 7-4, in the first semifinal Saturday.

Leconte showed his ability on grass when he stretched McEnroe to five sets in the third round of the Australian Open in Melbourne last week.

Saturday he broke the 22-year-old Anger in the sixth game of the second set to lead 4-2.

Leconte held three match points on his serve in the ninth game, lost one, but then wrapped up the final berth with a delicately-placed forehand volley.

Sunday's final will be his second in Australia in two months. He lost to Lendl, the world's number one, in the decider at the Australian indoor in October.

Leconte earlier this week cemented his spot in the Masters, which pits the 16 best players of the year against each other.

Evernden, ranked 96th in the world, said he had nothing to lose Sunday.

He looked certain to win with ease Saturday when he broke Dickson in the ninth game to lead 5-4 and served for the match.

But the Florida-based right-hander broke back to level at 5-5 and forced a tiebreaker.

Evernden quickly raced to a 6-1 lead but lost three of his match points as the tenacious Dickson fought back. A deep first serve to the American's backhand gave Evernden the match.

Gadusek stages authoritative win over W. German champ

TOKYO (R) — Former Olympic gymnastics hopeful Bonnie Gadusek staged an authoritative straight sets win over top-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch to reach the final of the \$300,000 Tokyo Women's Tennis tournament Saturday.

The fourth-seeded American, winner of four tournaments this year, beat Kohde-Kilsch 6-4, 6-3 and will meet defending champion and third seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria in Sunday's final.

Maleeva, seeking her first 1985 tournament victory, eliminated the second seed, Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, 6-0, 6-2 in just 48 minutes.

Maleeva, ranked eighth in the world to Gadusek's 12th, lost to the American in the final of the Swiss Open in May and will have to be at her best to avenge that defeat Sunday.

Gadusek, 22, switched to tennis from gymnastics in 1980. Training for the Olympics that year, she fell from the uneven bars, badly injuring her neck, and spent over six months in a full plaster cast.

The "get well" gift of a tennis racket from her sister set her on her new career and she entered her first tournament three months after leaving hospital.

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STREET DANCE (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN
Tel: 622112
PAPI PETKA SAWAL HAI (Colour)
Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema Philadelphia
Tel: 634144 - 634149
TRIP WITH THE TEACHER (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198
SITAMGAR (Colour)
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema OPERA
Abdel, behind Alfa office
Tel: 675573
FAYEK GETS MARRIED (Colour)
1 Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Coffee export controls may be suspended soon

LONDON (R) — The web of export controls which currently regulate the \$10 billion a year world coffee market could be suspended early next year as a result of booming prices triggered by widespread damage to Brazil's coffee crop.

A long-running drought in key coffee-growing areas in Brazil, the world's largest producer, has sent prices soaring amid fears that output next year could be around half of the 30 million 60-kilogramme bags harvested this year.

Figures compiled by the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) in London, which runs a price pact between producers and consumers, put average world prices at over 1.61 cents per pound, well above the group's target ceiling of 1.40 cents agreed in October and the highest since the start of the decade.

Although other producers still hold large stocks, traders and coffee roasters are worried because the prolonged spell of dry weather which began in May has hit regions which produce Brazil's better quality coffee beans.

The ICO has already raised the amount of coffee its producing members can export in an effort to defuse the market's strength, but the market has stubbornly refused to respond.

Counting the days

The 75-member body, which aims to keep prices within a price corridor of 120 to 140 cents, is now counting the days before sus-

pending its export limitations altogether.

On Dec. 12, the average world price for the preceding 15 days stood at just over 150 cents a pound, triggering a three million bag rise in ICO producers' export quotas.

If the average world price stays above 150 cents for 45 consecutive trading days, quota restrictions will be dispensed with completely.

If values dip below the 150 cents benchmark before rising through it again, the countdown is shortened to only 30 days.

Industry sources in Brazil, which accounts for nearly a third of world exports, say the country needs around 17.5 million bags of coffee in a normal year to meet domestic and foreign demand, far more than will be available next year.

Domestic coffee prices in Brazil have already quadrupled in recent months. Traders also fear that Brazil's coffee trees could take years to recover from the damage inflicted by the drought, threatening harvests beyond next year.

Underlining market fears is the ever-present danger of frost during the Brazilian winter. The last devastating frost which struck Brazil's coffee belt a decade ago sent prices rocketing.

The current coffee pact was only agreed after prolonged haggling between exporters struggling to protect their income and importing countries eager for stable prices.

Shultz sees explosive trade rows with EC

BRUSSELS (R) — Trade disputes between the United States and the European Community (EC) will have to be solved sooner or later "but if some become explosive, so be it," U.S. secretary of state, Mr. George Shultz, said Friday.

"When we come to something we have stiff differences over, well, we'll have to fight it out," he told a news conference.

Mr. Shultz was speaking after talks between the EC's executive commission and a high-powered team of U.S. cabinet officers, which also included Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter.

The talks were held against a backdrop of rising trade tensions, with the U.S. Congress clamouring for new protectionist measures, particularly against what it sees as unfair EC subsidies of farm and other exports.

EC External Relations Commissioner Willy De Clercq told the joint news conference he would be submitting a list to Mr. Yeutter of what the EC sees as unfair U.S. trading practices.

European Commission President Jacques Delors told the news conference that 1985 was ending with better hopes for the future of the world economy than it had started with.

He said the reasons for his optimism were the agreement to open a new round of economic liberalisation talks under the world trade body GATT.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 7, '85 and ending Wednesday Dec. 11, '85 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Jordan Islamic Bank	850	2104	2.500	2.440	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	22338	59891	2.640	2.660	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	22570	36208	1.610	1.600	1.000
Housing Bank	475	799	1.690	1.680	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	20488	22699	1.090	1.120	1.000
Jordan Finance House	9620	9040	0.940	0.930	1.000
Islamic Investment House	14242	15086	1.070	1.050	1.000
Jordan National Bank	32710	94914	2.890	2.890	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	22167	14647	1.170	1.160	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation (50%)	5042	2281	0.970	0.940	1.000
Darko Investment & House (75%)	16350	8501	0.770	0.770	1.000
Agarco (75%)	1390	872	0.650	0.630	1.000
National Portfolio Securities (50%)	5550	3382	0.610	0.600	1.000
National Financial Investments	15970	16170	1.000	1.010	1.000
Bank of Jordan	971	24866	25.300	25.500	5.000
Arab Bank Ltd.	180	32285	182.000	177.500	10.000
Jordan Insurance	3585	42431	11.500	11.600	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	3195	4256	1.320	1.260	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	1016	3261	3.210	3.200	1.000
Refco Insurance (50%)	16763	7161	0.900	0.920	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	25608	41255	1.630	1.620	1.000
Arab International Hotels	1550	589	0.380	0.380	1.000
National Shipping Lines	4700	3749	0.780	0.790	1.000
Petra Project & Leasing Equipment	1571	486	0.810	0.800	1.000
Jordan Dairy	7088	8580	1.200	1.220	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	77310	61497	0.770	0.790	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	3010	9617	3.180	3.190	1.000
National Steel Industries	13280	16508	1.200	1.240	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	17655	12354	0.700	0.690	1.000
Jordan Ceramic	2550	2754	1.080	1.080	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboard Factories	1850	4775	2.590	2.590	1.000
Jordan Phosphates Mines	874	2283	2.610	2.600	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	3790	4598	1.210	1.210	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	42085	12192	0.280	0.290	1.000
National Industries	84155	78255	0.850	0.960	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4242	29843	7.010	7.050	5.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	58	348	6.000	6.000	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	4688	9583	2.010	2.050	1.000
General Mining	1250	2188	1.750	1.750	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	10527	13477	1.270	1.300	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches (JIMCO)	2650	2067	0.780	0.780	1.000
Arab Financial Corp. (Jordan)	2000	2700	1.330	1.350	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	1919	8009	4.210	4.150	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	1350	2088	1.500	1.560	1.000
Petra Bank	6500	19412	2.990	2.980	1.000
Jordan Leasing and Equipment	1539	1065	0.700	0.690	1.000
Chemical Industries	7750	8215	4.050	4.050	1.000
Aladdin Industries	8450	6107	0.730	0.720	1.000
Real Estate Financial Corporation (Refco)	100	2000	21.000	20.000	1.000
Petra Insurance	2000	760	0.380	0.380	1.000
Universal Insurance	1800	1618	0.860	0.900	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	200	88	0.930	0.940	1.000
Arab Insurance	1950	1639	0.850	0.840	1.000
Dar Al Sha'ab Press, Publishing and Distribution	4700	3510	0.770	0.740	1.000
Jordan Beer	1202	2183	1.790	1.820	1.000
Woolen Industries	200	180	0.900	0.900	1.000
Arab Investment Bank	600	1212	2.020	2.020	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	1448	2172	1.550	1.500	1.000
Izdihar Insurance	2085	2210	1.060	1.060	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance	552	477	0.810	0.860	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	925	2174	2.250	2.350	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	500	535	1.070	1.070	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trade	7500	2025	0.300	0.270	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	250	975	4.120	3.900	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment	46900	37495	0.730	0.790	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	500	599	1.250	1.190	1.000
Rafia Plastic Bags	1000	1000	0.950	1.000	1.000
Jordan Fertilisers Industry	67	174	3.100	2.600	1.000

Oil price drop costs Gulf Arab states \$15m daily

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states have been losing an estimated \$15 million daily as a result of the drop in oil prices, Bahrain's minister of development and industry, Sheikh Yusef Shirawi was quoted as saying Saturday.

Sheikh Shirawi told the weekly newspaper Al Adhwa that the six countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain — still have enough financial potential and reserves to enable them to maintain "reasonable economic pace" till the oil market improved.

He anticipated such an improvement within four to five years.

Four of the GCC countries are members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), whose oil ministers agreed at their recent Geneva conference to defend their share of the oil market at the expense of prices.

Sheikh Shirawi said the "direct result" of that decision will mean "opening the door to an oil price war among oil-producers within and outside OPEC."

The OPEC ministers had no alternative to their decision to help regain their share of the market which had dropped from a high of 32.35 million barrels to 16 million barrels daily, he said.

The prices had now dropped by \$3 to \$4 a barrel, he said, predicting that they would go as low as \$20 a barrel with the end of the strong demand in winter.

OPEC had reduced its aggregate production ceiling to 16 million barrels daily last year to defend a pricing system based on the \$28 per barrel benchmark, in face of a glut on the world oil market.

Oman planning on \$22-\$23 a barrel

Meanwhile, Oman is figuring on a crude oil price of \$22 to \$23 a barrel for its 1986-90 development plan, Sultan Qaboos Ibn

Said said in an interview published Saturday.

"One has to take into account declining oil prices," the sultan told the Middle East Economic Digest. "We have to be realistic and calculate on \$22 to \$23 a barrel, and plan accordingly and see how things go."

Japanese customers say they paid \$27.35 a barrel for Omani crude oil last month. But spot oil prices have fallen since.

Sultan Qaboos said Oman, which is not an OPEC member, planned to maintain production at 500,000 barrels per day (b/d). This compares with an average of 416,000 b/d in 1984.

He said the new five-year plan will give top priority to education and health and also focus on communications, industry and agriculture.

Oman might again seek a loan to cover its budget deficit at some point during the plan, but that was not certain, he said. Last January the country signed for \$400 million of credit facilities.

Norway rejects calls for lower oil production

On the other hand, North Sea oil producer Norway Friday joined Britain in declining not to cooperate with OPEC to moderate oil production levels to prop up world prices.

Norwegian Oil and Energy Minister Kase Kristiansen, in an interview with Reuters, said the Oslo government could not scale back oil production from its offshore fields.

But he said Norway, currently producing some 850,000 b/d of crude oil, may shelve plans to develop small, marginal fields if world prices remain at current low levels.

Greece to seek refinancing of foreign debt repayments

ATHENS (R) — Greece, facing a mounting burden of debt repayments towards the end of the decade, will seek new loans totalling \$1200 million in the next two years to pay back some of its obligations early, official sources said Friday.

The sources, who described the move as a "refinancing but not a rescheduling," said Greece would want \$600 million next year and the same amount in 1987.

Without such early repayments, Greece's obligations would rise from \$900 million next year to about \$1.4 billion in 1987 and \$1.8 billion in 1988, the sources added.

The country's Socialist gov-

ernment announced an austerity plan on Oct. 11 in a bid to cut the balance of payments deficit from a record \$3 billion this year to \$1.7 billion in 1986, and cut inflation from 25 per cent to 16 per cent by next year.

The sources said there was no possibility that the 15 per cent devaluation of the drachma currency on Oct. 11 would be followed by another one next year, since that would mean there was no chance of meeting the inflation targets.

Greece secured a loan from its European Community partners of \$1.4 billion last month on condition it stuck to its austerity plan, including the anti-inflation drive.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 1985
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until early evening, today is fine for enjoying Sunday pursuits and other things that you like to do, especially if they are along modern lines. The evening brings delays.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Listen to as many good friends as you can and improve your future. Try not to let your mate in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be with persons of activity and talk with bigwigs about important matters. Avoid a grumpy person tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can handle your finest ideas at different outlets, but avoid work this evening which could be very tiring.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You had better make slight changes with an associate and improve matters in the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have an opportunity to make a good friend and become a fine ally for the future. Don't argue with him.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Add more mechanisms that can make your home function more efficiently. Gain the cooperation of a co-worker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can be out looking into new outlets during the daytime and be more interested in the modern.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get busy at making your home more charming and livable. Later invite interesting people in and entertain them well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are thinking brilliantly and can plan the new week's activities very wisely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study your property and see how best to improve it so that it becomes more valuable. Add to existing assets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have fine ideas for attaining the wishes that mean much to you, so go after them early. This is a profitable day.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan how to get into a more modern mode of living and be happier and more successful. Be dramatic and please a loved one.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be at an advantage in the New Era way of life, and this can bring harmony in life. Slant education along such lines as computers, robotics, etc. and your progeny can become very expert at such. One who will be different from the norm and will become very successful.

THE Daily Crossword by William Lutz

ACROSS

1 School type

5 Run, rustic retreat

10 Superhero

14 Come east

15 Prof's poses

16 Moved easily

17 Prime

20 Mental ratings

21 Diamond group

22 Twist

23 The start of it all?

24 Cookie

25 Composer Kern

26 Invert

28 Neighbor of Asia

30 True up

32 Shakes up

34 Dingle

35 Where the white line is

36 Fruit drinks

38 Contends

40 Fiddle

41 Gaelic sea god

42 Fowl

43 "We hold these — to be"

44 Exited

45 Picot unit

46 Scottish royal family

49 Animate

50 Apprehend

53 Ending words

54 Culmination

57 — and an understanding heart

58 Stage Plaza

59 Main bag

60 Moved easily

61 Grate

DOWN

1 El

2 Film in France

6 College

6 Curricula

4 Morse symbol

5 One meeting

6 Giving the sack

7 Part of TLC

8 Scurrying

9 Amaze

10 "There's many a 'twixt..."

11 Norwegian king

12 Appealing

13 Ger. river

14 Tooth surface

15 Blueprint

16 Secrecies

24 Alphabetize

25 — ud-Din

26 Dumb

27 Horseman

28 Blotter

29 Show room

30 Restraint

31 Mountain range

32 Knee cap

34 Apprehend

Marcos predicts instability if opposition wins elections

LIPA, Philippines (AP) — President Ferdinand Marcos on Saturday predicted at least 10 years of instability and even more bloodshed if he lost a snap presidential election.

Mr. Marcos spoke at a news conference just after he launched his campaign with an address to a graduating class of new air force pilots at Fernando Air Base, in which he accused his opponents of helping Communist insurgents.

"With this election we are to determine whether the ruling party can consolidate power or not," he said. "If we can't, we are due for 10 years of instability in the Philippines which may be worse than the present time of bloodshed."

Asked to comment on the combination of Corason Aquino and former Senator Salvador Laurel as the opposition's presidential and vice presidential candidates, Mr. Marcos replied, "that is why (former) Senator (Arturo) Tolentino and I are running scared" and campaigning hard.

Mr. Tolentino is Marcos's vice presidential running mate. Political observers say the Aquino-Laurel ticket has the best chance of beating Marcos in the Feb. 7 election.

In his speech at the air force base here in Bantargas province,

little of military science."

He did not mention his challenger by name and urged that the election be "free of character assassination."

Mr. Marcos accused his opponents of helping Communist insurgents.

"Let us say bluntly, some have led the way in hampering our security efforts," Mr. Marcos said, adding, "they have foolishly bedded with Communist insurgents and leftist radicals on the one hand, and on the other they have mounted a campaign to get foreign policymakers to cut military aid to the Philippines, and all because of the lust for power."

He said, however, that local and foreign assessments of rebel strength have been greatly exaggerated.

Mr. Marcos said 823 rebels and 2,064 supporters, all with arms, had surrendered this year. The military estimates the New People's Army strength at 12,500, and the rebels themselves claim up to 30,000 armed fighters scattered across the islands.

The president repeated for the second time a claim that 10,000 "innocent civilians" have been killed by rebels this year, a figure nearly seven times greater than that given by the military.

Spain expels 4 Cuban diplomats

MADRID (R) — Spain's Socialist government Saturday ordered the expulsion of the Cuban vice-consul in Madrid and three other diplomats for the attempted kidnapping of a Cuban defector, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said.

Vice-Consul Angel Alberto Leon Fernandez, two embassy clerks and Cuban Professor Ventura Ventura Torrientes were arrested Friday when they tried to bundle Manuel Antonio Sanchez Perez into a car in central Madrid.

A Foreign Ministry statement Saturday said: "The government has ordered the immediate expulsion of the four Cuban officials, while it also expresses its most energetic condemnation of this act, which is incompatible with diplomatic duties."

The statement did not say when the expulsions would take place. The kidnapping attempt failed when bystanders responding to the cries of Sanchez Perez surrounded the car while a taxi cut off its escape route. The crowd alerted the police who arrested the men.

Spanish radio said the victim detected the presence of the kidnappers before going into a bank and alerted police who waited in the taxi and arrested the four diplomats.

Police said the vice-consul and one of the clerks were carrying guns.

Western diplomatic sources said Sanchez Perez, a 50-year-old refugee provisionally granted political asylum, was a Cuban intelligence agent.

They were unable to confirm reports by Cuban exiles that he was the Havana government's espionage paymaster for Western Europe and the United States.

The radio, quoting Cuban exile sources, said Sanchez Perez was carrying a list of Cuban espionage agents in his briefcase.

Eyewitnesses at the scene of the arrest told reporters Sanchez Perez had told them: "I carry very important documents."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Innocencio Arias told Spanish Radio Friday night that Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez would lodge an official protest with Cuban Ambassador Oscar Garcia Fernandez.

Cuba denied that four of its diplomats tried to kidnap a defector in Madrid and said the man was stopped when he tried to embezzle half a million dollars from the Cuban government.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry issued a statement Friday night demanding the release of the four.

The Cuban statement described Sanchez Perez as a state employee and said he had caused an altercation when the four officials intercepted him after he illegally tried to draw \$499,000 in Cuban government money from a Madrid bank.

In a speech prepared for delivery to the World Affairs Council here, Mr. Whitehead said the next round of U.N.-sponsored peace talks, due to start in Geneva on Monday, would show whether Moscow was serious about wanting an accord.

"If, as General Secretary (Mikhail) Gorbachev indicated in Geneva, the Soviet Union supports the U.N. process, and if, as the Soviet Union continues to claim, it is sincerely interested in achieving a political settlement, then this next round of talks will provide them a forum to demonstrate their sincerity," he said.

U.S. officials told Reuters that the letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar was aimed at testing what some U.S. officials interpret as a greater Soviet flexibility on Afghanistan at Mr. Gorbachev's Geneva summit with President Reagan last month.

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Soldier tells mother he missed crash

KEENE, New Hampshire (Agencies) — "I'm okay, but I lost a lot of friends," were the first words a joyful mother heard at dawn from the son she thought might have been aboard the plane that crashed at Gander, Newfoundland, killing 248 of his comrades.

Joy, relief and shock engulfed Pauline Carlin as she heard her son, Chris, speak.

"I wasn't sure he was on the plane. When I heard his voice I said 'Thank God, Thank God. You're safe,'" she told Reuters.

"I felt shock, relief, joy. My husband said to Chris let me hear your voice." We said "Thank God, Thank God. That was a close call."

Carlin was one of the soldiers scheduled to return home for Christmas from the Middle East aboard the chartered jet, which crashed on takeoff.

Originally the Defence Department said 250 soldiers died in the crash. But the figure was lowered after checks of passenger manifests and other documents showed there were 248 troops aboard the aircraft.

Mrs. Carlin said her son had decided to stay in Israel, because his brother was visiting him and he also wanted to see his girlfriend in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, grieving neighbors Saturday gathered to offer aid and consolation to the families of the American soldiers killed in Thursday's air disaster.

Churches and businesses were offering prayers and money to help the survivors through a holiday season marred by tragedy.

Residents of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, which adjoins Fort Campbell, mourned the "fallen Eagle" of the army's 101st Airborne Division with a prayer service offered by local clergy and the establishment of a relief fund to help the widows and orphans.

The White House, meanwhile, announced that President Reagan would visit Fort Campbell on Monday to attend a memorial service and to offer sympathy and tribute to the men and women of the elite unit known as the "Scramming Eagles."

Administrative specialist Jeff Powley, a member of the 101st, attended the evening service at Hopkinsville's First United Methodist Church Friday night to pray for his comrades, who were returning from their peacekeeping mission in the Sinai to spend the holidays with their families.

"I knew several of the people in the battalion, but I'm too shook up to talk about it," he said after the service.

Retired Col. Frank Deese, former division chaplain at Fort Campbell, told mourners he was saddened by the enormity of the losses.

But he declared: "From the depths of my heart, I believe that where death is, there life is also. God's illimitable wisdom is to bring life out of death... even peace out of catastrophe."

Deese, who earlier in the day announced the establishment of an assistance fund with \$5,175 in initial contributions from local businesses, told Reuters that towns near the fort were stunned by news of the crash.

"I used to wear that Eagle patch and those were my guys," he said. "I used to have to carry the message that 'daddy's not coming home' to the children. That's something harder than watching men die in combat."

The retired chaplain said civilians need to give families of the crash victims special attention because "Christmas has gone down the drain pretty badly for them... that's why we need to affirm life."

Pauline Humphreys of Hopkinsville said her 18-year-old daughter Tracy had been engaged to marry one of the victims, Jeffrey Kee, who had been bringing home an engagement ring.

"I've never seen Tracy so hurt," Humphreys said. "It would have been easier to accept if it happened over there."

She said her daughter had received a tape from Kee last Monday in which he expressed fear of a crash on the return flight and referred to the charter plane as "rickety."

President Reagan ordered the flag that flies over the White

Berserk monkey bites 300 people

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A monkey went berserk and bit more than 200 people in four days in a northern city whose streets turned deserted but for a few residents armed with sticks to fight back, the United News of India reported Saturday.

It said the monkey had lived in Kanpur, about 380 kilometers south east of New Delhi, for 10 years but went mad four days ago, attacking children, women and old men. The agency said more than 200 people were treated for bites and up to 300 were bitten. The monkey inflicted deep wounds on the backs of its victims and most of those bitten were given first aid, the agency said. Doctors could not establish if the monkey had rabies.

The Arrow Air DC-8 that crashed in Newfoundland was forced to abort a takeoff last month at a Michigan airport, a newspaper reported Saturday.

A jetliner had been chartered Nov. 15 to fly 99 U.S. Marine reservists from Kent County International Airport in Grand Rapids to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, the Grand Rapids Press reported.

The airplane's nose lifted into the air on takeoff but quickly settled back onto the runway with a jolt and a loud noise, airport officials and Marines said Friday.

Officials at the Kent Airport and at Gander International Airport in Canada said the markings on the plane that crashed Thursday were the same as those of the plane in the Nov. 15 incident.

Bill Kait, a Kent airport's control tower supervisor, said records showed the Michigan flight "did abort," the press said.

"It was obvious... that some portion of the aircraft had struck the runway," said Capt. Larry Martin, an active-duty officer assigned to the Grand Rapids reserve unit.

The pilot, whom the newspaper did not identify, stopped the plane and asked the reservists to move to the front to redistribute weight.

The jetliner then completed its flight without incident, Capt. Martin told the newspaper.

Police dog helps to track down man-ape

PEKING (R) — A police dog has been enlisted to track down the "wild man of Hubei," the man-ape said to live in remote areas of Hubei province in central China, an official newspaper reported.

The Hubei provincial daily said the dog had been brought from Shanghai to the mountain region of Shennongjia to help speed a solution to the mystery of the creature. Chinese media have reported dozens of sightings of the hairy wild men, which are presumed to be related to the elusive Yetis (abominable snowmen) of the Himalayas, but none has so far been captured.

Man sent to prison for telephone flirting

ABU DHABI (R) — A man has been sentenced to six months in jail and fined 3,000 dirhams (\$820) for flirting over the telephone with a married woman, the Emirates News reported Thursday today. It said Ahmad Mohammed, an Arab and resident of the United Arab Emirates city of Al Ain, was trapped when the woman taped his conversation and informed police. He was ordered deported at the end of his sentence, but his nationality was not given.

Pasteur Institute to sue U.S. over AIDS virus

PARIS (R) — France's Pasteur Institute has said it was suing the United States government for not recognizing its discovery of a virus thought to cause the killer disease AIDS. The institute, which has spearheaded research into Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), is suing the U.S. government's National Institute of Health with the aim of winning recognition as the first to have isolated the virus. In a statement, it said the U.S. Patent Office had ignored its request for a patent for the detection of the Lymphadenopathy Associated Virus (LAV) and it was filing a legal complaint in the U.S. court of claims. A spokeswoman said the institute wanted to be granted rights to commercialise its own AIDS tests. The institute made its request for a patent in December 1983 after discovering the virus in January that year. However the patent office eventually awarded the patent to the U.S. National Institute of Health last May.

AIDS gala raises \$246,000 in Paris

PARIS (AP) — A gala Nov. 25 attended by Actress Elizabeth Taylor, French show business figures and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac to raise money for research into AIDS brought in 1.9 million francs (\$246,000), organisers have said. "The results have surpassed our expectations," said singer Line Renaud, one of the main organisers, at a news conference. The funds will go to the Pasteur Institute, which has pioneered research into the disease formerly known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), to a medical research institute and to an AIDS association.

Greece confirms better ties with U.S.

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government has confirmed a statement by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that Greek-American relations were improving but sidestepped a question by Mr. Shultz about the future of American bases here.

Mr. Shultz said in Brussels that relations were substantially better and added that Washington wanted to know as soon as possible whether Athens intended to expel U.S. bases from Greece so it could make other arrangements if necessary.

In reply, a Greek government statement said bilateral ties had improved after a period of tension caused by U.S. violations of Greek

airspace and criticism of Athens airport security.

It added that the 1983 Greek-U.S. bases agreement expired in 1988 and any change in its conditions would need to be voted on in the Greek Parliament.

But the statement did not repeat previous Greek assertions that the bases would in any case be dismantled by 1990, nor did it repeat a statement by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu last week that any changes would be made by parliament in 1988.

Mr. Shultz told a news conference following a two-day NATO foreign ministers' meeting that Washington would not spend

a lot of money on the bases if it had to give them up.

It was agreed at one-hour meeting Thursday with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias that U.S.-Greek relations, often strained in recent years, should be improved, Mr. Shultz said.

"I think it is fair to say that we have made genuine headway in substance, therefore our relations are better," Mr. Shultz said.

Noting that bases were an important part of the picture, he said: "We need to know early on whether the intention of the Greek government is to end the bases at the end of this current agreement or not."

U.N. concerned over human rights in Iran, Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly, for the first time, adopted resolutions expressing deep concern over the human rights situations in Afghanistan and Iran.

Both drafts were called from the Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, where they were initially approved a week ago along with resolutions critical of rights violations in Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Up to now only the three Latin American countries had been subjected to scrutiny by the assembly on their rights records.

The resolution on Afghanistan, whose government is supported by more than 100,000 Soviet troops, was adopted by a vote of 80 to 22 with 40 abstentions. Soviet Bloc countries and their allies cast negative votes.

The draft on Iran was endorsed by 53 votes to 30, with 45 abstentions.

Many Islamic countries opposed it, while the Soviet Union and most other East European states did not participate in the vote.

Iraq, Iran's foe in the Gulf war, voted for the resolution, as did Jordan.

The United States and West

European countries supported both resolutions.

In the draft on Afghanistan, the assembly expressed profound concern that disregard for human rights in that country was more widespread, with large-scale violations.

It expressed deep concern that the Afghan authorities, "with heavy support from foreign troops" were acting with great severity against their opponents and suspected opponents, without respect for human rights.

The resolution also said that widespread rights violations, referred to in a report by a special rapporteur of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, had already caused millions of people to flee homes and country.

The resolution on Iran expressed deep concern over what it called "specific and detailed allegations" of violations contained in a report by another special representative of the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

The draft referred particularly to allegations about summary and arbitrary executions, and about violations of the right to freedom from torture and from arbitrary arrest, the right to a fair trial, and the right of religious minorities to practise their own religion.

U.S. 'will guarantee' Afghan peace pact

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has formally told the United Nations that Washington is willing to act as a guarantor of an Afghan peace settlement that would include the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

"We have informed the (U.N.) Secretary-General (Javier Perez de Cuellar) in writing of our willingness to play an appropriate guarantor's role in the context of a comprehensive and balanced settlement," Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said Friday.

In a speech prepared for delivery to the World Affairs Council here, Mr. Whitehead said the next round of U.N.-sponsored peace talks, due to start in Geneva on Monday, would show whether Moscow was serious about wanting an accord.

"If, as General Secretary (Mikhail) Gorbachev indicated in Geneva, the Soviet Union supports the U.N. process, and if, as the Soviet Union continues to claim, it is sincerely interested in achieving a political settlement, then this next round of talks will provide them a forum to demonstrate their sincerity," he said.

U.S. officials told Reuters that the letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar was aimed at testing what some U.S. officials interpret as a greater Soviet flexibility on Afghanistan at Mr. Gorbachev's Geneva summit with President Reagan last month.

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The fourth document, which would address the withdrawal of Soviet forces which intervened in Afghanistan six years ago, remains to be discussed.

Mr. Whitehead said Monday's talks could be crucial.

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The Soviet Union has said repeatedly it is willing to pull its troops out of Afghanistan once there is a halt to what it calls external interference — meaning support for the guerrillas from the United States, Pakistan, China and some Middle East countries.

Uganda talks to continue despite failure to sign pact

NAIROBI (R) — The Ugandan military government and its rebel opponents are expected to carry on with peace talks despite their failure to sign an accord.

The two sides are under strong pressure to sign an accord from Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, who said on Tuesday that an agreement would be concluded Friday morning.

But officials from both the government and rebel side said serious differences remained unresolved.

Ugandan Interior Minister Paul Ssemogerere said Friday night the talks would continue and said of Friday's session: "We had a good meeting."

Both Mr. Arap Moi and rebel leader Yoweri Museveni, head of the National Resistance Army

(NRA), declined to comment on the talks or on prospects of an early agreement.

Ugandan observers said their reticence indicated that little progress was being made.

Mr. Arap Moi, who has been chairing the peace talks since last August, has expressed growing impatience with the slow progress of the negotiations.

He said last week the two sides should pack up and return to Uganda to fight out their differences if they could not reach an agreement.

The government and rebels are also under pressure from Western nations to sign an agreement soon. Britain said on Thursday that Western countries would not be prepared to help rescue the shattered Ugandan economy unless a peace pact was signed.

Survivors return to Armero a month after tragedy

BOGOTA, Colombia (Agencies) — One month after Armero was buried by the eruption of the Nevado Del Ruiz Volcano, many survivors are trekking back to their once prosperous agricultural city to recover what is left of their belongings.

But with the return come new problems. Authorities say they are arresting dozens of looters every day, and they are worried about a growing sanitary threat from thousands of decomposing bodies that are being exposed as the mud spewed out by the volcano recedes.

The area is under military control and an army major, Rafael Ruiz, is the new mayor of Armero. But Maj. Ruiz cannot work in Armero itself. The town hall was destroyed and he works out of an office in Guayabal, a nearby town.

Most of the survivors of Armero are living in tents in the area, and

authorities now are allowing them to go back to their buried city to try to recover their belongings.

"We have issued more than 500 passes to former residents to go back there and try to recover whatever they can," said Capt. Jaime Garcia, an aide to the mayor.

Capt. Garcia said that in recent days, there has been a recurrence of the looting that occurred in the first few days after the Nov. 13 eruption. He said hundreds of looters have been arrested recently. "Today alone we picked nearly 100 of them," he said.

The looting problem was especially serious immediately after the catastrophe, but authorities put an end to it with what a military officer called "very tough measures." Four looters were reportedly shot to death by soldiers.

Around 20,500 of Armero's 28,000 residents were killed when

the eruption of the Nevado Del Ruiz triggered huge snow, mud, rock and ice slides that virtually wiped out the city.

As the mud covering the city has begun to recede, hundreds, probably thousands of bodies are emerging, posing a "major sanitary threat," Capt. Garcia said.

Because mass incineration is against the law, he said, the military mayor has asked the central government to import "a chemical foam that dries up the bodies and eliminates the risks represented by the decomposing process."

The Colombian government has estimated the damage caused by the eruption at 35 billion pesos (\$210 million). This week, the government announced that it has completed 73 reconstruction projects at a cost of \$109.3 million. They include rebuilding houses, roads and bridges, restoring public services, relocating survivors and

carrying out agricultural recovery plans.

Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez was in New York on Friday to present the plan to the international community at the United Nations. The government says Colombia will need international aid to finance reconstruction.

Meanwhile an episcopal conference spokesman said Friday the Pope will fly over Armero when he visits Colombia next July.

Pope John Paul arrives in Bogota on July 1 and goes the next day to nearby Chiquinquirá to celebrate the 400th anniversary of what Roman Catholics believe was the apparition of the Virgin Of Chiquinquirá, patron saint of Colombia.

He will also visit Cali, Buenaventura, Popayan, Cartagena, Barranquilla and Medellin on his six-day tour.

Major shakeup reported in Soviet Kazakhstan

MOSCOW (R) — Three politburo members in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan have been removed and a former senior official expelled for falsifying his autobiographical details, according to a local press report.

In its Dec. 11 edition, which reached Moscow Saturday, the Kazakh Communist Party daily Kazakhstanskaya Pravda named the three politburo members as Bayken Ashimov, Kenes Aukhadiyev and Kalkinzhin Kazbayev.

Aukhadiyev was switched in September from his important post as first secretary of the Alma Ata region, capital of the republic. The removals represented one of the biggest shake-ups in republican Soviet politics since Mik-

hal Gorbachev was elected party leader in Moscow in March.

The newspaper said the former leader of the Alma Ata city party, A.D. Koychumakov, had been expelled from the party "for falsifying autobiographical details, displaying a lack of modesty and abusing his official positions."

In a separate report on the Kazakh Central Committee meeting where the officials were dismissed, the party daily Pravda said Saturday Kazakhstan had come under fire for showing too little enthusiasm for their work.

Pravda said: "Some graduates from high school do not want to enter industry, rely on financial support from their elders, and come under the influence of a consumer mentality, petty bourgeois morals and a hostile ideology."

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHAHIF
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—There's a simple matter to which I can't find the answer in any book, not even your "Bridge Complete." For purposes of opening the bidding, how should you value singleton honors?—R.C., Baltimore, Md.

A.—One reason why you don't find this evaluation problem in books is that there is no really satisfactory answer, especially since the worth of singleton honors is likely to fluctuate dramatically, both up and down, as the bidding progresses. However, here's a simple rule that is reasonably accurate for the initial valuation of the hand that applies for all insufficiently guarded honors:

Count either the high-card value of the honor or the distributional value, whichever is the higher. Do not count both. This rule does not apply to a singleton ace.

Thus, count the value of the honor for a singleton king or queen, but 2 points for a singleton if it is the jack. A doubleton queen is worth 2 points, but a doubleton jack only 1.

Q.—It seems, to me anyway, that the points awarded for honors are to compensate for the disadvantage one gets from revealing an important portion of a hand. Therefore, honors should be valued before the play, rather than after, as some say.

gost. Which is correct?—M.C., Glenview, Ill.

A.—Nowhere are the points awarded for honors referred to as "compensation" for anything. They are simply referred to as a bonus. And the laws of contract bridge specifically allow you to claim honors any time before the rubber is scored. However, in that case all parties must agree.

One of the challenges of bridge is reconstructing the missing hands. If a player has to reveal almost half his hand before play begins, he is at a tremendous disadvantage. To prevent that, the best time to claim honors is immediately after play of the hand ceases, before the cards have been mixed together. That way you can check the tricks if there is any dispute.

Q.—Partner opens the bidding with one club and you hold a 7-point hand with four hearts and five diamonds. Do you respond one diamond or one heart?—L.S., Middlebury, Vt.

A.—The majority of players would respond one diamond on the hand you suggest. That will not lose a 4-4 heart fit because partner, should he have a four-card heart suit, can now rebid one heart. There are some, who would respond one heart because they feel the hand is worth only one bid, but they are a small minority.